WEDNESDAY
July 30, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 180

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

SIGNIFICANT BREACHES

DGCA flags 51 safety lapses by Air India

NEWS » PAGE 12

'WORST-CASE SCENARIO'

Death toll in Gaza crosses 60,000

WORLD » PAGE 14

GUN VIOLENCE

Policeman among 4 shot down in New York

WORLD » PAGE 14

STATE OF PLAY

From glory to decline

The Chola capital needs basic infrastructure, not historic statues

OPINION » PAGE 9

VERBAL DUEL

Gambhir, Oval curator in a heated exchange

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

Rape case against Prajwal: Verdict expected today

BENGALURU
The verdict in one of the four cases of sexual abuse and rape against Prajwal Revanna, former MP for Hassan, is expected on Wednesday.
» Page 6

New blood group found

BENGALURU
A historic milestone in transfusion medicine has been achieved at the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre, wherein a new blood group, previously unidentified anywhere in the world, has been discovered in a South Indian woman. » Page 5

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

3 Pak. terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: Centre

LeT terrorists tracked for 2 months and killed in Dachigam, says Shah; ballistic, forensic reports used to confirm their identities, he adds; PM slams Opposition's questions over operation's timing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three Pakistani terrorists who had carried out the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam were killed in a security operation in the Dachigam encounter in Srinagar on Monday, the Union government told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed the operation, and that the three slain terrorists had been involved in the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

In his speech during a debate on Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister said that despite the security forces' success in eliminating these terrorists, some sections of the Opposition were raising questions on the timing of the operation. "What has happened to these people," he asked, pointing to Opposition MPs.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday. PTI

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah informed the Lok Sabha about Operation Mahadev. "The three terrorists who killed our civilians at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam have been killed," the Minister said. Since residents of Jammu and Kashmir are not joining the militant ranks, Pakistan is sending terrorists from across the border to strike terror, he added.

"We ensured that the terrorists do not flee to Pakistan," Mr. Shah said, in his own speech during the Operation Sindoor debate.

Sharing the details, Mr. Shah said that the three terrorists had been identified as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt; Hamza Afghani; and Zibran, all Pakistani nationals and members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Suleiman was an A-category terrorist who was also involved in the Gagangir terror attacks in October 2024. The three men were tracked with the help of human and technical intelligence by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and J&K Police, the Minister said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
IDENTITIES REVEALED
» PAGE 11

No one asked India to stop Operation Sindoor: Modi

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Through Operation Sindoor, India has put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday during a debate on the military action that followed the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

"Not a single world leader asked us to stop the operation. Our actions were precise and non-escalatory, just as we had committed," Mr. Modi said in a clear refutation of claims by the U.S. that it mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

He also launched an aggressive attack against the Congress, saying the party "seems to be taking its talking points from Pakistan".

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

Will step in if 'mass exclusion' found in draft voter rolls: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court promised on Tuesday to step in without fail, and immediately, if, for instance, persons omitted as dead from the draft electoral roll in Bihar, scheduled to be published on Friday as part of the special intensive revision (SIR), are found "very much alive".

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi made it clear to the Election Commission (EC) that the court would not hesitate to act if the list was riddled with "mass exclusions". "Bring 15 people they [EC] say are dead, but found alive... we will look into it," Justice Bagchi assured senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners.

The oral statement came in response to apprehensions raised by Opposition parties and NGOs that 65 lakh people have been excluded from the draft roll with an explanation that most of them were either dead or had permanently shifted.

Final call

Petitioners have questioned the EC's claims regarding the status of 65 lakh voters who are likely to be excluded from the draft list in Bihar

- The draft roll will be based on the **January 7 list**
- **31 days** would be given for electors to submit claims and corrections
- Final roll to be published on **September 30**

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
PREPARATION IN MANIPUR
» PAGE 10

Is Tamil Nadu delaying trial in case involving Senthilbalaji, asks SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked if the State of Tamil Nadu was trying to delay the trial in the cases of cash-for-jobs "scam" involving former Minister V. Senthilbalaji by incriminating more than 2,000 people as accused.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi called for listing all pending cases involving the former Minister before the Supreme Court and posted them for hearing on August 6.

"We would like to know that besides the Minister, who were the alleged brokers or middlemen? Who were the officers who acted on the recommendations of the Minister? Who were the members of the selection committee? Who were the authorities who gave the appointment?" the Bench asked.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by Y. Balaji, challenging a Madras High Court order of March 28 dismissing petitions against clubbing of multiple chargesheets filed in cases related to the alleged scam. "You (State) are more keen to prosecute them so that in the entire lifetime of the Minister, the trial proceedings never come to an end. This is your *modus operandi*," the Bench observed.

Tiger's tale

Stripe speak: A tiger-striped performer participating in International Tiger Day celebrations in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The event promotes awareness about tiger conservation and threats from poaching. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

SC to begin hearing on Presidential Reference with States' arguments

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to begin its August 19 hearing on a Presidential Reference by first hearing the simultaneous challenge raised by Tamil Nadu and Kerala against its maintainability. The reference questions the power of the Court to draw timelines for the President and Governors to deal with State Bills.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai said the two States, represented by senior advocates K.K. Venugopal, A.M. Singhvi, and P. Wilson, would get an hour to convince the court to return the reference unanswered.

Mr. Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, said the Bench must hear the States before the Union Government began its submissions in support of the presidential questions. "A preliminary hearing should be held on the maintainability of the reference. This should be done first," he pressed.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani said the States must get their "full say", after which he would respond on the question of maintainability and continue with his submissions.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Senior citizen dies in suspected stray dog attack

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 68-year-old man was killed in a suspected case of a stray dog attack at Kempegowda Nagar, Kodigehalli, in the wee hours of Monday.

As the incident occurred around 3.30 a.m., when the roads were deserted and since there is no CCTV camera covering the spot, the police and civic officials are awaiting the autopsy report to conclude it as a stray dog attack case.

The deceased has been identified as Seetappa of Kodigehalli who earned a living by rearing cows and supplying milk in the area.

Seetappa

On Monday, around 3.30 a.m., Seetappa, who was unable to sleep, came out of his house wrapped in a blanket and went for a walk. Less than 200 m away from his house, he was allegedly attacked by a pack of eight to nine stray dogs. He fell and was reportedly lying in a pool of blood when a police night patrol team reached the spot. He was shifted to the Government Hospital at Yelahanka, where he was declared dead.

The son of the deceased, Venkatesh, told *The Hindu* that a woman living on the first floor of the building adjacent to the place where his father was attacked was woken up by his screams for help and the sound of the dogs. "The woman told us he was attacked by a pack of dogs, and she was helpless. She threw water from the window on the dogs in an attempt to save my father. After this, some dogs apparently ran away. Later, the police took him to the hospital," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Dharmasthala 'burials' case: No skeletal remains found at first spot identified by complainant

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged "murders and burials" at Dharmasthala began the process of exhuming remains at the spots identified by the whistle-blower/complainant on Tuesday, a long-standing demand of the complainant, his lawyers, and several activists. However, the day ended in an anti-climax, as digging through the day at the first spot the complainant had shown the SIT sleuths on Monday did not lead to any recovery of skeletal remains.

The SIT will go ahead and dig up the second of the 13 sites on Wednesday, sources said. The second site is also in the forest area.

The SIT is also contemplating deploying ground penetrating radars, a handheld device, to ascertain if there is something buried in the ground and is in the process of procuring them, sources said.

13 spots

After recording the statement of the 50-year-old former sanitation worker, who had alleged he was forced to bury several bodies in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014, the SIT had carried out an inquest of 13 spots the whistle-blower identified as burial sites in and around the temple and the bathing ghat on Monday.

At work: An earthmover being used to dig a site near the bathing ghat at Dharmasthala on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On Tuesday, the SIT began digging at the first site – in a wooded area next to the Netravati bathing ghat. Midway, an earthmover and a dog squad were also deployed.

"We have dug up an area of over 15 ft in length, 10-11 ft in width, and 8 ft in depth, to the satisfaction of the complainant. But we did not recover any skeletal remains at the site. We have concluded that there are no bodies at this site," said a senior official.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police M.N. Anucheth, Superintendent of Police Jithendra Kumar Dayama, part of the SIT and Stella Varghese, Assistant Commissioner, Puttur, were at the spot.

The complainant reportedly said there was a pillar at the spot earlier, which is not there now. The complainant had claimed to have buried three bodies at the site and marked it with a thorny bush, sources said.

GETTY IMAGES

Underbowled and underwhelming: the curious case of India's fourth seamer

The team prioritising safety-net runs from the lower-order has resulted in the back-up pacer being selected for his batting prowess; this has led to captain Gill not being able to depend on the reserve speedster to keep things tight and give the lead bowlers a breather

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

India is at sixes and sevens when it comes to properly utilising its fourth seam bowler.

Of the 672.1 overs bowled by the visitors against England in the four Tests so far, the fourth pacer has delivered just 55 overs.

It is not a secret that the current Indian team is big on having as many all-rounders as possible in the playing XI.

The fourth seamer has also been selected bearing in mind the player's batting prowess and that's why Shardul Thakur (first and fourth Tests) and Nitish Kumar (second and third Tests) got the nod.

Ideally, the captain should have confidence in the fourth pacer's abilities to keep things tight and provide the strike bowlers a breather. But the number of overs given to the 'fourth man' suggests otherwise.

It is not as if India did not require the services of its back-up pacer in the series, given that England has batted for more than 80 overs in five of its seven innings so far.

After the second day's play at Old Trafford, Shardul was given the unenviable task of explaining why he was not getting to bowl more.

"Usually, the captain takes the call. The player doesn't have much of a say. If we talk about the first Test, he said there was no chance of bowling, and I said okay. As far as this match is concerned, the way the game has progressed, I could have been given two more overs. But there is a lot of time left in the game. Hopefully, I'll get more bowling," Shardul had said. And the next day's proceedings started with him bowling the first over!

However, that proved to be a false dawn as skipper Shubman Gill employed him just for one over and change ends for Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah.

Shardul also did not help his case as he had leaked 35 runs in his five overs the previous day. Even with the injury concerns for lead pacers Bumrah and Siraj during the game, Shardul sent down only 11 of the 157.1 overs India bowled in the fourth Test.

Intentional

Bowling coach Morne Morkel did not shy away from revealing that India relying more on the top speedsters was intentional.

"A bit of a tough fit when you have four seamers... when you're going at five runs an over, I think as a captain, you want to bring the strike bowlers back to try and take the wickets. Unfortunately, it happened for Shardul in the first Test as well," Morkel said after the third day's play in Manchester.

England's marathon first innings had not finished by then and India had to bowl another 22.1 overs to dismiss the hosts. The workload for the fourth pacer on day four of the fourth Test: zero (no overs).

Don't put all your eggs in one basket is timeless wisdom; yet, it was almost as if India was happy to pin all its hopes on the main pacers running through the England batting line-up.

There's a chance it may work, as it did when Akash Deep and Siraj took 17 of the 20 English wickets to bowl India to a famous victory in the Edgbaston Test. But such a performance should be treated as an outlier and not the norm.

As Morkel briefly touched upon during the press conference, the fourth seamer's high economy-rate would have made it difficult for the skipper to depend on the option heavily.

The Indian think-tank should have presumed that the Bazballing English batters would target the weak link before turning their attention to the others.

Either India was okay with the fourth seamer bowling less, or it was caught blindsided by the Englishmen's aggressive approach to the back-up pacer. Neither option reflected well on the team's decision-making.

The Lord's Test was the one occasion where England batted conservatively, and this showed in Nitish's figures. His tally of 17 overs in the first innings of the third Test remains the most by an Indian fourth pacer in the series.

Nitish's economy rates in that match (3.64 and 4) read better compared to what the Englishmen plundered off him and Shardul in the series. But to hope that England will use that strategy in every match is not smart thinking.

A major part of winning a Test and being a champion side is to have the ability to take 20 wickets consistently. And India will have to be brave in its selection and stop prioritising safety-net runs from the fourth seamer.

"What is coming through for everyone, despite India's heroism with the bat, is that the selections have been quite poor. We saw what Shardul was capable of in the first Test. Despite that, he was picked again. And we saw the repeat of that inclination to have a bowler who can bat a bit. I think that thought has to be dumped," Sanjay Manjrekar told *ESPNcricinfo* after the fourth day of the Old Trafford Test.

Instead of looking for more runs from its lower-order, what India needs is a crafty bowler who can add depth and variety to the attack. K.L. Rahul, Gill, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja's tenacious show in the second innings to earn a memorable draw at Old Trafford has been proof enough that the batting is in good shape and hands.

"It has been hard to understand why India looks to get players who have two skills rather than just go for quality. Kuldeep Yadav not playing so far tells you the approach of this Indian team management. They say that India needs 20 wickets, but it's going to be difficult to convince me, because if that was the case, Kuldeep would have played by now," Manjrekar added.

'Kuldeep as fourth seamer'

Ahead of the fourth Test, former India off-spinner R. Ashwin had suggested that India play left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep 'in the role of the fourth seamer.' As weird as it may sound, there is some merit to the idea.

Kuldeep's inclusion would have given another potent weapon for Gill to turn to. It also would have been a safe bet that Kuldeep would bowl more than the 11 overs Shardul did at Old Trafford.

"You should look at Kuldeep as the fourth seamer and play him according to that role. He could come in handy in the second innings and towards the fag end of England's batting. Kuldeep could be a handful even on day one. He can definitely play the role of the fourth seamer," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

As Gill's men approach the fifth Test, there are two big questions: will Kuldeep be the 'fourth seamer' and whether the visitors can square the series at The Oval? The answers are just around the corner.

India's fourth seamers

Test	Bowler	Innings No.	Overs	Runs conceded	Wkts	Total overs bowled by India	Overs%
First (Leeds)	Shardul Thakur	2	6	38	0	100.4	5.97
		4	10	51	2	82	12.19
Second (Birmingham)	Nitish Kumar	2	6	29	0	89.3	6.71
		4	DNB	-	-	68.1	-
Third (Lord's)	Nitish Kumar	1	17	62	2	112.3	15.13
		3	5	20	1	62.1	8.05
Fourth (Manchester)	Shardul Thakur	2	11	55	0	157.1	7.00

PTI

THE GIST

- Of the 672.1 overs bowled by India in the four Tests so far, the fourth pacer has delivered just 55 overs
- It is not as if the visitor did not require the services of its back-up pacer, given that England batted for more than 80 overs in five of its seven innings so far
- Instead of looking for more runs from its lower-order, what India needs is a crafty bowler who can add depth and variety to the bowling attack

From Page One

Senior citizen dies in suspected stray dog attack at Kodigehalli

"My father was unwell and used to not sleep well at night, and often wandered off. He had a habit of going to a shop nearby to have tea around 5.30 a.m. On Monday, he went out as early as 3.30 a.m., which we did not realise," he said.

Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, said they were awaiting the autopsy report to confirm whether it was a stray dog attack. "Meanwhile, we have surveyed the area and picked up 16 stray dogs and have kept them under observation to check if any of them have violent behaviour. Our vaccination and animal birth control programme coverage in that area has been good," he said.

Another senior official said that while there was starvation found among dogs in the area, the man walking alone, wrapped in a blanket on a deserted road as early as 3.30 a.m. may have triggered one dog into attacking him and others may have joined in.

Six gelatine sticks and some detonators were found in a bag outside the toilet at Kalasipalya bus stand in Bengaluru on July 23.

Three held for illegal transport of gelatine sticks found at Kalasipalya bus stand

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Investigating the recovery of six gelatine sticks and 12 electronic detonators abandoned near the washroom of Kalasipalya bus stand on July 23, the police tracked down three labourers working in a quarry in Kolar, who were allegedly part of the purchase and sale of explosives for illegal quarrying and digging of borewells.

The accused, identified as, Ganesh H., Muniraju, 38 and Shivakumar, 32, from Kolar, allegedly claimed that they carried the explosives to Kalasipalya to be transported to Kollegal in a private bus for work related to quarrying and digging of borewells.

However, when they went to use the washroom, they saw transport department officials and security guards.

Fearing getting caught, they dumped the sack containing the gelatine gels and 12 electric detonators in the washroom, and fled from the spot.

The police identified the accused and tracked them down to their native places based on CCTV camera footage, city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said.

The police found the identities of three more persons who supplied the explosives from a neighbouring State.

"We have considered this as a serious issue. This case exposed a network of illegal sale of explosive material," Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh added that efforts are on to track down the other accused who are on the run.

Teachers express displeasure with Lesson Based Assessment

Under this, teachers have to update the lesson plan, unit test of each lesson, marks obtained by each student in the SATS

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A section of teachers in the State have expressed displeasure with the Lesson Based Assessment (LBA) implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) alleging that the department is creating 'unnecessary pressure.'

The DSEL is implementing LBA in all government, aided, and unaided schools in the State with an aim to improve student learning and reduce the examination stress. FILE PHOTO

Under the LBA, teachers have to update the lesson plan, activities, unit test of each lesson and the marks obtained by each student in the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS). Then, supplementary teaching has to be given to the student who is lagging behind in learning, and re-tests have to be conducted.

However, due to server and other problems, updating the details of each lesson and each student in SATS has become a challenge for teachers.

The DSEL implemented LBA in all government, aided, and unaided schools in the State from the academic year 2025-26 with an aim to improving student learning and confirm the child's learning after each lesson, and reduce the examination stress of students.

LBA is mandatory for classes 4 to 10 in Kannada medium and classes 1 to 10 in bilingual classes.

42,250 documents

In the LBA, the unit tests will be conducted for 25 marks in each lesson and marks should be entered in SATS, and grades will be generated automatically.

The department has already given the details of the unit test, evaluation, and SATS documents to be updated as per LBA from June 15 to August 30 to the teachers. Accordingly, in 60 school days, 55 examinations should be conducted for students in class 8, 56 for class 9, and 58 for class 10. Teachers of a school with about 250 students have to evaluate a total of 42,250 answer sheets and enter the same number of documents in SATS.

"Earlier, we used to enter lesson plans, activities, and marks in a separate register. Now, all the subjects have to be entered online. Online entry is not possible due to server problems. Lessons for class 10 should be completed, and revision should be started by the end of December.

In addition, other task,s including midday meals, census, and election-related works, have to be carried out.entering information about all the lessons of all classes online as per LBA is a challenging task, and we are under pressure. the department should simplify LBA," urged a teacher of a government school in Bengaluru.

Private schools

Private educational institutions have not taken steps to implement it yet.

"The department, which initially said that LBA will not be implemented in private schools, has now ordered it to be applied to our schools as well. LBA implementation is becoming difficult in private schools due to technical problems. To enter the information in SATS, government school teachers have been given a Karnataka Government Insurance Department (KGID) number, and aided school teachers have been given an insurance number as a login ID. But private school teachers have not given any login ID. They have been instructed to use the teachers' SATS ID, which is causing a technical problem. Therefore, it will be more convenient if an Excel sheet update system is implemented instead of entering information in SATS. A petition will be submitted to the DSEL in this regard," said Shashikumar D., general secretary of Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS).

K.V. Trilok Chandra, Commissioner of Public Instruction, said, "This issue has already been discussed with the office bearers of the Government School Teachers' Association, and steps have been taken to resolve the technical issues. It has been decided to reduce the 25 marks allotted for each lesson unit test to 15."

Lokayukta raid on five govt. officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police conducted search operations across the State on the offices and residences of five government officials and seized disproportionate assets worth ₹24.4 crore.

Based on complaints, several teams of the Lokayukta police carried out raids at 25 places in Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Hassan, and Chikkaballapura simultaneously. The accused have been identified as K. Omprakash, Senior Asst. Director of Horticulture, BDA, with disproportionate assets worth ₹6.2 crore; N. Venkatesh, Tax Assessor of Shettyhalli subdivision, BBMP, with disproportionate assets worth ₹2.5 crore; Venkatesh G., Taluk Health Officer of Hiriyur, Chitradurga, with disproportionate assets worth ₹3.5 crore; Jayanna R., Executive Engineer of National Highway, Hassan division,with disproportionate assets worth ₹6.2 crore; Anjaneya Murthy. M, Junior Engineer of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitisation Department, Gauribidanur taluk, Chickballapur, with disproportionate assets worth ₹5.7 crore.

Inter-State drug racket run through cargo services unearthed, six arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police say the prime accused deployed his associates in different cargo service companies across the State to facilitate smuggling without checks

The Cottonpet police unearthed an inter-State drug racket and arrested six persons from Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha who were allegedly smuggling marijuana (ganja) from Andhra Pradesh to Delhi via Bengaluru by cargo services.

Police have seized 53.5 kg of ganja worth ₹40 lakh from them along with nine mobile phones, 10 SIM cards, and and a goods carrier used to transport the drugs. The racket came to light when Cottonpet police, based on credible information, intercepted the autorickshaw carrying the drugs and arrested two persons on July 13.

Based on information revealed by them, police arrested the rest of the accused who allegedly confessed to smuggling ganja to Bengaluru from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh by private buses, trains, and cargo services.

According to the police, the prime accused deployed his associates in different cargo service companies across Karnataka to facilitate smuggling of the consignment without any checks.

After receiving a consignment, the accused would pack the drugs, which were concealed in readymade garment packages, and create a fake GST documents.

The drugs consignment would be transported to Delhi and, based on demand, to other parts of India.The police learnt that the accused had created a network spread across the major metro cities. The accused have been booked under the NDPS Act and taken into police custody. As part of the investigations, Bengaluru police are seeking the help of their counterparts in Delhi, A.P., Maharashtra, Telangana, Jharkhand, and officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau for exchange of information and to crack down on the network.

Student who burgled relative's house to fund trip to Goa held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kothanur police cracked a theft case and arrested a B Com student and her three friends for allegedly stealing gold valuables worth ₹65 lakh from her uncle's house to fund their Goa trip and fund the investment for her male friend in May this year.

The accused, Sachitha, was staying in her uncle's house to pursue her studies and allegedly stole the valuables in May to give it to her male friend and classmate, identified as Yeshwanth.

The duo was studying in a private college pursuing bachelor of commerce . After receiving the valuables, Yeshwanth allegedly gave them to his friends Tanush and Ramprakash to dispose them of and get the money.

The accused allegedly melted some of the gold valuables and sold it to a party in Goa, and Yeshwanth invested a part of the money for his future plans. The theft came to light in June when Srinivas, owner of the house, on June 9, noticed the valuables missing and suspecting the role of domestic help filed a complaint.

The police, based on the complaint, questioned the domestic help before confronting Sachitha. A detailed questioning allegedly led her to confess . Based on the confession, the police arrested Yeshwanth and two of his friends and recovered the valuables.

The prime accused have ben produced before the court and granted bail while the two others have been remanded to judicial custody.

Writers, progressive thinkers oppose reduction of SSLC pass percentage

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Writers, progressive thinkers, and educationists have opposed the reduction of the pass percentage in Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams in the State from 35 to 33.

Letter to CM

Writers K. Marulasiddappa, S.G. Siddaramaiah; progressive thinkers K.S. Vimala, Babu Mathew, Janagere Venkataramaiah, Sripada Bhat, K.M. Vishwanath Marathur, educationists V.P. Niranjanaradhya, and others have written a letter to the Chief Minister expressing concern that the quality of education will decline due to this decision of the School Education Department.

They also urged the State government to withdraw the recent gazette notification in this regard.

According to the new rules, the students will pass the SSLC exam if they get a minimum of 30 marks out of 100 in a subject.

This means that if a student scores 20 out of 20 in the internal examination, and only 10 out of 80 in the external examination, the student will be declared as pass.

> Many students who scored 20 out of 20 in the internals during the last examination did not get the minimum marks in the external exam. We don't understand the quality index in place here, where the benchmark of true quality of learning is an external test, and scoring just 10 marks in it is enough.

"Many students who scored 20 out of 20 in the internals during the last examination, did not get the minimum marks in the external exam. We don't understand the quality index in place here, where the benchmark of true quality of learning is an external test, and scoring just 10 marks in it is enough," they argued.

3 women held for stealing in crowded buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peenya police have arrested three women for stealing valuables from passengers in crowded buses in the city.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Padma and Anu, along with their associate, used to wear burkhas to conceal their identity and travel in crowded buses and steal gold from the passengers.

Based on a theft complaint by a passenger that 50g of gold valuables were stolen from her on a moving bus on May 25, the police kept a watch on burkha-clad women in buses as the complainant mentioned that the three women wearing burkha had boarded the bus along with her but later got down complaining that the bus was crowded. The police detained the accused at a bus stop on the 8th Mile in Tumakuru on July 23. A detailed questioning allegedly led them to confess to the crime. Based on their confession, the police conducted a search in their house in Labourers' Colony near the Yeshwanthpur railway track and recovered 190g of gold valuables worth ₹16 lakh.

Cybercrime police register FIR against actor Ramya's abusers; case handed over to CCB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after actor and former MP, Ramya, filed a complaint with the City Police Commissioner on Monday, the cybercrime police registered an FIR charging the accused under the IT Act and various Sections that deal with sexual harassment and outraging the modesty of a woman. The case has now been handed over to the Central Crime Branch (CCB), and a DCP rank officer has been instructed to supervise it.

In her complaint, Ms. Ramya had named 43 social media account-holders for the alleged harassment. She claimed that the said social media handles were being operated by the fans of actor and murder-accused Darshan Thoogudeepa.

Darshan is currently out on bail after being named an accused in the murder of Renukaswamy from Chitradurga last year.

Ramya leaving the Police Commissioner's office in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The police registered the case under Sections 67 (publishing or transmitting of obscene material in electronic form) and 66 C (punishment for identity theft) of the Information Technology Act and Sections 351 (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 75 (sexual harassment) and 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman).

Action initiated

Reacting to the incident, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that necessary action was being initiated.

"This should be taken seriously. Such incidents should not happen in the future. Today it is Ramya. It may be someone else tomorrow. A full stop must be put to such things. The Police Commissioner will take action. He will give instructions to concerned officials. I will also give instructions that such things shouldn't happen," the Minister added.

Another plaint

Meanwhile, another Kannada actor, identified as Pratham, has filed a complaint with the district police, claiming that he was allegedly abducted and threatened by Darshan Thoogudeepa's fans.

In his complaint to C.K. Baba, Superintendent of Police (Bengaluru Rural), Mr. Pratham alleged that on July 22, when he was returning after finishing a pooja at a temple in Doddaballapur, Yeshaswini, Bakery Raghu, and other unidentified persons stopped him, took him to an isolated place, and abused him for speaking against Darshan and threatened him with dire consequences after threatening him by flashing some weapons. Pratham alleged that the accused showed a photograph they captured with actor Darshan when he was lodged at the Parappana Agrahara prison. The complaint has been acknowledged for further legal procedures, the police said.

Support for Ramya

Meanwhile, veteran actor Shivarajkumar backed Ramya, saying, "No woman should face such kind of harassment."

Mr. Shivarajkumar took to social media to voice his opinion. "Words used against Ramya on social media are condemnable," he said. "We must learn to respect women. Social media is a powerful tool. We must use it responsibly. We must not spread hate and jealousy through social media. Ramya is fighting for something meaningful, and I stand by her," wrote Shivarajkumar.

Science retracts arsenic bacteria paper after years of controversy

In 2010, Felisa Wolfe-Simon was hailed for a revolution; two years later, she exited NASA and science; her arc underscored a stark truth: the failures of science can play out just as visibly as its triumphs, leaving questions about how to correct course without crushing the people behind the work

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

In 2010, in the waters of Mono Lake in California, NASA-funded scientists claimed to have found a microbe called GFAJ-1 they said rewrote biology. It had allegedly replaced the phosphorus in its DNA with the toxic element arsenic. The announcement, made at a high-profile press conference on December 2 that year, stunned the world.

The findings, soon published in the journal *Science*, hinted that life could rely on a radically different chemistry. Lead author and microbial geobiologist Felisa Wolfe-Simon declared, "Life as we know it may be due for a revision."

Speculation surged: had NASA stumbled onto alien biology?

Felisa Wolfe-Simon processes mud from Mono Lake to inoculate media to grow microbes on arsenic. FILE PHOTO

Set the ball rolling

On July 24 this year, *Science* announced that it would be retracting the GFAJ-1 paper, nearly 15 years after its splashy debut, citing shifting editorial standards and lingering public confusion.

"It's important to have any groundbreaking work independently evaluated before drawing far-reaching conclusions," University of Minnesota synthetic biologist Kate Adamala said. "We want the public to be excited, but the message must match the strength of the data."

Mainstream media amplified the drama. One headline read: 'NASA Discovers Life Not As We Know It.'

Ivan Oransky, co-founder of Retraction Watch, a site that tracks withdrawn papers and promotes research transparency, and executive director of The Centre for Scientific Integrity, saw the media blitz as pivotal. "Without the hype, this paper might never have been retracted."

He pointed to NASA's style of communication as a key factor in the storm that followed in 2010.

"Historically, NASA hasn't always had a respectful relationship with journalists," he said. "They're great at promoting themselves, and sometimes at overselling."

Peer review in public

To the people at large, the prospect of arsenic life hinted at alien biochemistry. But for many scientists, the GFAJ-1 paper raised more questions than answers. Critics began pointing out that arsenate is unstable in water, so its role in DNA seemed chemically implausible.

"If true, this would have overturned nearly a century of data, but nothing in the chemistry suggested it was possible," Steven Benner, an early critic and chemistry professor at the University of Florida said.

Others were initially intrigued. "I was very excited and impressed. It was a big deal in the origins community," Adamala, then a graduate student, said.

But like many, her enthusiasm waned as flaws emerged. Microbiologist Rosemary Redfield became a leading critic and one of the first replicators to disprove the findings.

"It's a fine example of how easy it is for scientists to be misled by an attractive hypothesis and of why we need both formal peer review and informal outside scrutiny."

By late December, the backlash gained traction. Blogs and Twitter (now X.com) turned the paper into a case study on post-publication peer review.

Sheila Jasanoff, professor of science and technology studies at Harvard, noted that while such public spaces can foster valuable crowd-sourced peer review, they also risk overreach.

"These days science, like true crime, has spilled outside the constraints of officially authorised review. However, like all forms of democratisation, such informal policing can run out of control if it is driven by a mob mentality that is out to shame or undermine a researcher or a research program."

The original team stood by their findings – but by now the tone had shifted.

Evidence falls apart

Over the next 18 months, multiple labs tested the paper's core assertion.

In 2012, *Science* published two studies that refuted it. Redfield's team found no arsenate in GFAJ-1's DNA. Tobias Erb's group confirmed the microbe still needed phosphorus to grow, i.e., it hadn't rewritten biology, just tolerated low-phosphate conditions.

Wolfe-Simon maintained that her team's methods showed arsenic was incorporated into DNA and were robust enough to rebut Benner's contamination claims. *Science* did not retract or flag the paper, saying claims should be resolved by further research, not editorial action. And since no fraud was alleged, the rebuttals sufficed.

"The whole debate ends up circling around the semantics of words like 'error', 'fraud,' 'misconduct,'" Oransky said. "But this paper, let's be honest, has been understood as unreliable since at least 2012, if not earlier."

Why science took so long

For Benner, the GFAJ-1 paper reflected differences in scientific perspectives. Biologists saw phosphorus as essential, chemists knew arsenate's instability, geologists accepted mineral substitutions, and astrobiologists embraced radical possibilities.

"It wasn't that reviewers were incompetent," Benner said. "They just didn't all speak the same scientific language."

He saw another deeper flaw. NASA's astrobiology community often relies on consensus panels that falter when no one challenges ideas outside their domain.

"Multidisciplinary science is essential," he said, "but when it's superficial, weak claims slip through. This wasn't peer review breaking down; it was different communities assuming they shared standards while working from very different assumptions."

Adamala echoed this concern: "Young scientists in interdisciplinary fields should embrace continuous peer review, as reliance on collaborators' expertise can miss flaws that later scrutiny might catch."

Correction sans closure

"They're right to retract a paper whose high-profile conclusions were entirely wrong," Redfield said.

> If true, this would have overturned nearly a century of data, but nothing in the chemistry suggested it was possible
>
> **STEVEN BENNER**
> CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

One senior researcher noted that the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, which many journals have adopted as a measure to improve research integrity, justify a retraction if the findings are unreliable. Here, multiple labs found phosphate in the arsenate medium, undermining the paper's core claim that the microbe grew by substituting arsenic for phosphorus.

"The growth experiments at the heart of the paper were flawed," the researchers said. "Even if it was an honest mistake, the core conclusions didn't hold up."

Adamala said that it's a good example of self-regulation in science. "Slowly but surely, mistakes do get corrected."

Oransky was more measured: "*Science* is now acting on an expanded definition of retraction that's consistent with what's been possible for a long time but rarely used."

Not everyone sees it as black and white. Jasanoff warned that retractions can erase the very messiness that makes science work.

"Rather than draw hard lines between truth and error, science advances through open debate," she said. "It's better to preserve a record that shows how scientists test, challenge, and refine their ideas, even when plausible claims later prove wrong."

Benner, for his part, expressed worry that broadening retraction policies could weaken the informal scrutiny that exposed the paper's flaws, raising questions about balancing error correction with preserving the scientific process.

Today, the whole saga has transformed into a cautionary tale. Adamala said the controversy may have cast a shadow over exotic chemistry research in astrobiology, making scientists more cautious about bold claims.

Who pays the price?

Wolfe-Simon's rise and fall was swift. In 2010, she was hailed for a potential revolution in biology. Two years later, she quietly exited both NASA and mainstream science, her research career derailed by controversy and lack of funding.

"Good scientists would have responded by getting back into the lab and doing the necessary follow-up work. But these authors still don't admit mistakes," Redfield said, pointing to their rebuttal letter in response to the retraction.

Ariel Anbar, a coauthor of the now retracted paper, said, "*Science* cited no misconduct or specific mistake. We stand firmly by the integrity of our data."

He also criticised the journal for not sharing a blog post it published regarding the retraction with the authors, calling it a breach of COPE guidelines.

Oransky disagreed: "What guideline is this referring to? Furthermore, standing by your data doesn't mean there aren't errors in it."

Anbar also said the team rejected "the alleged error" and that it was raised in 2011 and rebutted in a peer-reviewed exchange.

"They may reject it," Oransky replied, "but that seems to be the rationale for the retraction."

Nonetheless, Oransky also said *Science*'s retraction notice could have been clearer. He explained that retractions often imply misconduct, so when *Science* called the paper unreliable but not unethical, it still put the authors on the defensive.

"You can see that here, they're saying, 'But there was no misconduct. No clear error.'"

Jasanoff said she doesn't see it completely as an individual failure. She argued that the unusually long delay until retraction may reflect less a concern with scientific uncertainty and more a broader institutional tendency to manage reputation, especially in an era of heightened fears over misinformation.

Wolfe-Simon's arc underscored a stark truth: high-risk discoveries bring both acclaim and vulnerability. When science goes public, its failures play out just as visibly as its triumphs, leaving lasting questions about how to correct course without crushing the people behind the work.

A slow machine

Peer-reviewers cleared GFAJ-1, and media hype propelled it, but shifting editorial norms more than new data undid it 15 years later. Oransky singled out *Science*'s editor-in-chief, Holden Thorp, for leading that shift.

"Other journals have done it, but he's been consistently engaged in a way that encourages open conversation, no matter whether people agree with specific decisions or not."

That kind of editorial openness, he added, may be the real legacy of the arsenic life saga.

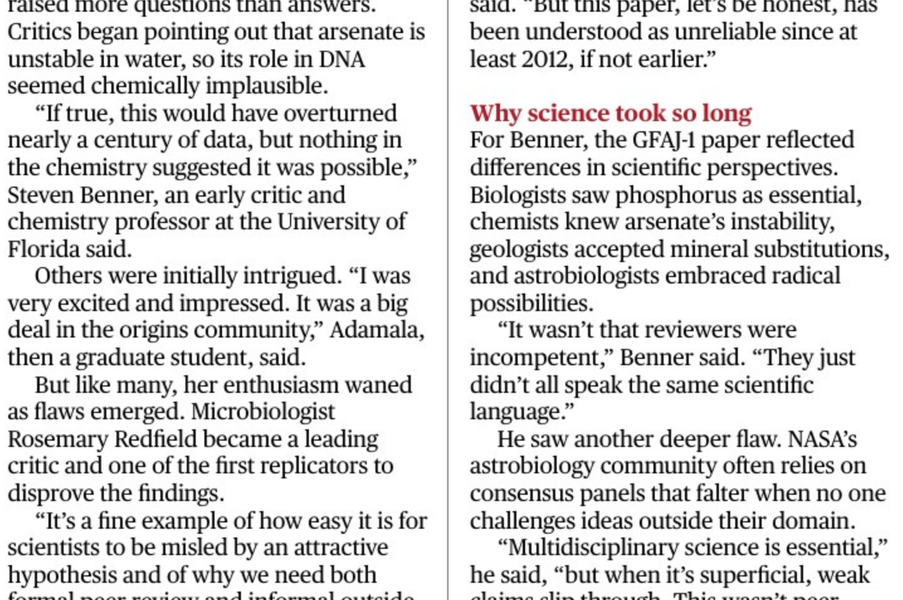
Jasanoff, however, cautioned that every retraction risks erasing the visible, iterative debate that builds trust. "It is better for people to understand that science moves through trial, and error, and gradual self-correction. It is not a binary. All science is provisional."

Benner drew a parallel to the 1976 Viking missions, where a premature "no organics, no life" verdict in *Science* stifled debate.

"Calling the ballgame early had an unfortunate result. It prevented the dialectic the scientific process needs."

The arsenic life case endures not because of its flawed claim, but for what it revealed about the pressures shaping modern science: how spectacular findings – especially from institutions like NASA – can short-circuit scrutiny, and how correcting course means confronting the very systems that made such claims irresistible in the first place.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and a science communicator from Delhi.
anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)



Limestone formations along the shores of Mono Lake. OCTAGON (CC BY)

A microscopic view of GFAJ-1 bacteria. NASA

A Barbados threadsnake atop a US quarter. AFP

World's smallest known snake makes comeback in Barbados

Agence France Presse

For nearly two decades, no one had spotted the world's smallest-known snake.

Some scientists worried that maybe the Barbados threadsnake had become extinct, but one sunny morning, Connor Blades lifted a rock in a tiny forest on the eastern Caribbean island and held his breath.

"After a year of searching, you begin to get a little pessimistic," said Blades, project officer with the Ministry of Environment in Barbados.

The snake can fit comfortably on a coin, so it was able to elude scientists for almost 20 years. Too tiny to identify with the naked eye, Blades placed it in a small glass jar and added soil, substrate, and leaf litter.

Several hours later, in front of a microscope at the University of the West Indies, Blades looked at the specimen. It wriggled in the petri dish, making it nearly impossible to identify.

"It was a struggle," Blades recalled, adding that he shot a video of the snake and finally identified it thanks to a still image.

It had pale yellow dorsal lines running through its body, and its eyes were located on the side of its head.

"I tried to keep a level head," Blades recalled, knowing that the Barbados threadsnake looks very much like a flower pot snake, which is a bit longer and has no dorsal lines.

On July 23, the Re:wild conservation group, which is collaborating with the local environment ministry, announced the rediscovery of the Barbados threadsnake.

The snake is blind, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants, and lays one single, slender egg. Fully grown, it measures up to 10 cm

"Rediscovering one of our endemics on many levels is significant," said Justin Springer, Caribbean program officer for Re:wild, who helped rediscover the snake along with Blades. "It reminds us that we still have something important left that plays an important role in our ecosystem."

The Barbados threadsnake has only been seen a handful of times since 1889. It was on a list of 4,800 plant, animal, and fungi species that Re:wild described as "lost to science."

The snake is blind, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants, and lays one single, slender egg. Fully grown, it measures up to 10 cm.

"They're very cryptic," Blades said. "You can do a survey for a number of hours, and even if they are there, you may actually not see them."

But on March 20 at around 10:30 a.m., Blades and Springer surrounded a jack-in-the-box tree in central Barbados and started looking under rocks while the rest of the team began measuring the tree, whose distribution is very limited in Barbados.

"That's why the story is so exciting," Springer said. "It all happened around the same time."

S. Blair Hedges, a professor at Temple University and director of its center for biology, was the first to identify the Barbados threadsnake. Previously, it was mistakenly lumped in with another species.

In 2008, Hedges' discovery was published in a scientific journal, with the snake baptised *Tetracheilostoma carlae*, in honor of his wife.

"I spent days searching for them," Hedges recalled. "Based on my observations and the hundreds of rocks objects that I turned over looking for this thing without success, I do think it is a rare species."

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BMRCL likely to scale down tree felling target from 11,000 to 6,000

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The revised decision comes after the BMRCL received feedback from stakeholders during public consultation meetings held for the metro phase 3 project. FILE PHOTO

In a major revision aimed at reducing environmental damage, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is likely to scale down its earlier proposal to cut over 11,000 trees for the upcoming Namma Metro Phase 3 project. The revised plan now estimates the felling of approximately 6,000 trees.

According to the Detailed Project Report, around 11,137 trees were initially expected to be impacted across the 44.65-km-long stretch that comprises two corridors. However, BMRCL clarified that this figure included both trees slated for removal and those that might be transplanted, subject to technical feasibility and environmental assessments that are still underway.

The revised decision comes after the BMRCL has been receiving feedback from multiple stakeholders during public consultation meetings happening on the metro phase 3 project.

"As a public infrastructure developer, we have a responsibility to balance urban growth with environmental sustainability. After carefully reviewing suggestions so far we got from citizens, we have been reworking our design and engineering plans to reduce the number of trees that need to be felled. We are also looking at large-scale transplantation wherever possible. Our aim is to implement the project with minimal ecological disruption," said a senior BMRCL official involved in the planning process.

About the project

Phase 3 of the metro, referred to as the Orange Line, is entirely elevated and aims to decongest traffic-heavy areas in the western part of the city. The two new corridors are set to integrate with the existing metro network, significantly enhancing intra-city connectivity. Corridor 1 will stretch 32.15 km from J.P. Nagar Phase 4 to Kempapura, while Corridor 2 will run 12.5 km from Hosahalli to Kadabagere.

Though the project received all statutory clearances, including approval from the Union Cabinet in August last year, construction has been delayed due to changes in the original alignment. One of the major revisions involves the construction of double-decker viaducts along certain stretches accommodating both metro and road traffic, which required fresh planning and feasibility analysis.

The BMRCL has projected that upon completion in 2029, the Phase 3 extension will serve an estimated 7.85 lakh daily commuters, taking the total length of the Bengaluru metro network to 222.2 km. In anticipation of the environmental impact, the agency has proposed a compensatory afforestation initiative valued at ₹43.53 crore as part of its environmental monitoring strategy, according to officials.

Key interchange stations are planned along the new corridors to enhance integration with existing lines. These include Peenya and J.P. Nagar on the Green Line, Mysuru Road on the Purple Line, and Sumanahalli on Corridor 2. J.P. Nagar Phase 4 will also provide a link to the Pink Line at Bannerghatta Road, while Hebbal is expected to function as a major interchange between the Blue Line (airport route) and Red Line (Hebbal-Sarjapur route).

As of now, BMRCL has acquired about 26,811 square meters of land mostly for Corridor 1 connecting J.P. Nagar Phase 4 to Mysuru Road Metro Station. For this corridor alone, an additional 1,29,743 square meters has been earmarked, involving 777 private properties.

An official said, "Any further land required will be acquired in coordination with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), with a strong emphasis on minimising disruptions to existing road infrastructure, flyovers, and underpasses."

The ₹15,611 crore project is being funded through a mix of sources ₹7,577 crore in loans and ₹450 crore from non-fare revenues, including advertising rights and station naming deals. The rest is expected to be covered through central and state government contributions.

Tree census expected to gather momentum as BBMP eyes Dec. deadline

This August will mark six years since the Karnataka High Court directed the civic body to carry out a tree census across the city, initially giving it a three-year deadline

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Tree census

Area	Survey progress
Yelahanka	82,779
Dasarahalli and West	34,947
R.R. Nagar and South	1,36,460
Mahadevapura and East	48,950
Bommanahalli and Mahadevapura	53,708
Bommanahalli and R.R. Nagar	66,485
South and East	2,16,960 (work completed)
East	50,933 (work completed)

Timeline
- **High Court order:** August 2019
- **BBMP work initiation:** February 2020
- **Enumeration till 2023:** not over 2lakh
- **Deadlines after 2023:** Four
- **Work gathering pace:** February 2024
- **Contractor withdraws:** March 2025
- **New deadline:** December 2025

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) long-delayed tree census project, which has missed several deadlines, is finally expected to gather momentum, following streamlining of the census process and interest from two new contractors to participate in the fresh tendering round.

According to Santosh Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) with the BBMP Forest Wing, two contractors associated with firms that have conducted tree censuses in Mumbai and Delhi have shown interest in taking over Bengaluru's stalled project.

This August will mark six years since the Karnataka High Court directed the BBMP to carry out a tree census across the city, initially giving it a three-year deadline. The BBMP has managed to complete just over 30% of the work.

As per BBMP data accessed by *The Hindu*, the forest department has enumerated 6,91,222 trees as of July. The census has been completed in the south and eastern parts of the city, covering 80 wards.

According to BBMP officials, Bengaluru is estimated to have around 21 lakh trees. Of these, 2,16,960 trees are located in the south and eastern regions, where work has been completed, according to the project's progress report.

Among the trees already enumerated, the most frequently recorded species are Spathodea, rain trees, mahogany, and gulmohar, said Mr. Kumar.

Only two contractors had taken up the the civic body's project initially, and one of them eventually withdrew in March this year, unable to make significant progress

The Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) stated that the department expects to wrap up the census by December, or by January at the latest if there are minor delays.

"We will invite tenders within a week, and this time the Sanction Schedule Rate (SSR) has been fixed at ₹22 per tree," said the DCF.

The SSR refers to the amount paid to a contractor for enumerating a single tree. In previous tenders, the SSR was set at ₹18.

When asked about the extended delays, Mr. Kumar explained that Bengaluru was among the first cities in the country to undertake a large-scale tree census. At the time, there was no proper action plan, and the project involved more than just counting trees: it also required accurate species identification, geo-tagging, and recording tree dimensions.

Bribery allegations

Only two contractors had taken up the BBMP's project initially, and one of them eventually withdrew in March this year, unable to make significant progress. Sources in the BBMP claim he had also accused BBMP officials of demanding bribes.

"We have one contractor still working on the project, but challenges remain. Many field workers struggle with identifying tree species, and their attendance has also been irregular," Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Despite this, he remains optimistic that the project will be completed by December.

"The two new contractors have prior experience with tree census work, and we've also streamlined our enumeration process. Once the tender is floated and awarded, the remaining work can be completed swiftly," he added.

Mr. Kumar further said that the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre has developed a mobile application for enumeration and data storage. The BBMP plans to make this app publicly accessible once the census is complete.

Six-year delay

A.N. Yellappa Reddy, former forest secretary and silviculturist, expressed displeasure over the six-year delay, emphasising its consequences. "Thousands of trees, some over 100 to 200 years old, have been felled in the name of development, and there's no record of this simply because the survey hasn't been completed," Mr. Reddy said.

"Had the census been done, we would have had a clear understanding of the destruction caused by these projects," he said. Mr. Reddy added that many of the trees lost were keystone species that could have continued providing ecological benefits for another 500 years.

Mr. Reddy further noted that the tree census could have helped identify urban heat islands across the city, enabling timely interventions.

In his view, the survey could play a key role in halting the city's changing climatic patterns.

Five new corporations under GBA: Final notification to come out on September 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The government issued a draft notification outlining the boundaries of the proposed five municipal corporations on July 19. FILE PHOTO

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday invited the public to file objections, if any, to the draft notification regarding the formation of five corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) by August 18. He stated that the final notification would be issued on September 2.

Further, he announced that the delimitation and reservation of wards would be published on November 1. A new Delimitation Commission would be established to carry out the process, and the final notification would be issued after inviting objections, he added.

"The Delimitation Committee will conduct the delimitation process on September 8 and issue the final notification on November 1," he said.

The State government issued a draft notification outlining the boundaries of the proposed five municipal corporations on July 19, dividing the existing civic limits into five separate corporations—Central, North, East, West, and South.

On Tuesday, Mr. Shivakumar urged the public to file objections to the notification, stating, "Anyone, whether the public or Opposition parties, can file objections, and we will consider all of them. The objections will be scrutinised, and if any changes are necessary, we will make them before issuing the final notification."

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that once the delimitation and reservation processes were completed, an affidavit would be submitted to the court, and preparations for the corporation elections would begin. "Elections may take place soon after the final delimitation and reservation process is completed," Mr. Shivakumar announced.

Lecture at IIPA on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Karnataka Regional Branch, will host the K.S. Aiyar Memorial Lecture on August 2. Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court of India will deliver the lecture on the theme "Good Governance under the Constitution of India".

Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh will be the chief guest. The event will be held at 4 p.m. at the Multipurpose Hall, Infantry Road.

E-khata drive from October 22 to November 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister, at a meeting with officials at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday announced that a massive e-khata awareness drive will be conducted in the city from October 22 to November 1. Teachers, Bescom bill collectors, and BBMP employees will participate in the campaign.

"We have records of 24 lakh khatas, including both A and B khatas, but only 6.5 lakh e-khatas have been obtained. Therefore, this large-scale drive is being organised," said Mr. Shivakumar.

Speaking about the Cabinet's decision to convert B Khatas to A Khatas, hestated that the eligibility criteria and application guidelines would be released by August 15.

Multi-level parking

Additionally, M?r.Shivakumar announced that a section of the Hebbal Flyover, a multi-level parking facility in Gandhi Bazaar, and a few improved traffic junctions would be inaugurated soon.

Mr. Shivakumar hinted that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may be available on August 6 for the inauguration.

He also noted that the State government was planning to implement several welfare schemes that would benefit between 10,000 and 15,000 people. As part of one such scheme, 3,700 pushcarts would soon be distributed to selected beneficiaries.

Clean Bengaluru

Mr. Shivakumar revealed that 10,354 complaints regarding waste disposal in public spaces had been received since the launch of the Clean Bengaluru programme, which allows citizens to report garbage issues.

"Nearly 9,700 complaints have been addressed, but I am not satisfied. I want more people to file complaints so that BBMP can act on them," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said that instructions had been given to install additional surveillance cameras to monitor garbage disposal and impose hefty fines on vehicles involved in dumping waste in public spaces.

वित्तीय सेवाएं विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Karnataka Bank
Shubh1001

3 MONTH
FINANCIAL INCLUSION SATURATION CAMPAIGN
1st July 2025 - 30th September 2025

At Least One Camp in Every GRAM PANCHAYAT

FACILITIES OFFERED IN CAMPS

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
Opening PMJDY Zero balance Account

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
Guaranteed monthly pension of Rs 1000/- to 5000/-

Prime Minister Jevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)
Life Insurance cover of Rs 2 Lakhs in case death due to any reason.

Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)
Accidental death benefit of Rs 2 Lakhs

Re verification of KYC/Nomination/Awareness about Digital Fraud and Cybercrime.
- Re-KYC for savings, Inactive accounts including PMJDY account.
- Ensure nomination, Secure your loved one□s future.
- Awareness about Digital fraud and DEAF accounts.

Please contact nearest Bank Branch / Visit Camp for more information

Join the Movement. Spread the Word. Be Insured
Visit the Camp in each Panchayat for Jansuraksha Schemes Enrollment, Account Opening, Re-KYC & prevention of frauds.
AVAIL THE BENEFITS

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD
Justice City, Shameerpet, Medchal District, Hyderabad - 500 101.
Ph: 040-23498104 / 115
Website: www.nalsar.ac.in Email: recruitments@nalsar.ac.in

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF LEGAL CONSULTANTS (MARITIME LAW)

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad in collaboration with Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India, Mumbai invites applications from the interested applicants for the post of **Legal Consultants (Maritime Law)** on contractual basis. For full details visit **www.nalsar.ac.in**; & **https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/**

REGISTRAR

UDUPI COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
Malpe, Karnataka
A Government of India Enterprise
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India

Ref. No. UCSL/IMS/HR/VN/F/11-MGR(P&BD)-DM(E-dsn) 2025/51 Dated 24 July 2025

RECRUITMENT
EXECUTIVE ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
01	Manager (Planning & Business Development)	01 Post
02	Deputy Manager (Electrical Design)	01 Post

For more details on age, qualification, remuneration, reservations, etc with regards to this advertisement visit www.cochinshipyard.in or www.udupicsl.com

Last date for Application: 14 August 2025.

Sd/-
MANAGER (HR & IR)

HELICOPTER DIVISION
HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
POST BOX NO. 1790, VIMANAPURA POST, BANGALORE – 560017

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is a Maharatna Central PSU & premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production Divisions, 10 R & D Centers and one Facilities Management Division spread across the Country.

HAL invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions for its units at **Helicopter Division-Tumakuru and Rotary Wing Academy (RWA) at HAL - Helicopter Division, Bangalore:-**

Sl. No.	Position	No. of Vacancies
1.	Administrative Officer	01 (UR)
2.	Technical Tradesman	01 (UR)
3.	Assistant Accounts	01 (PwBD -HI)
4.	Stores Clerical/ Commercial Asst	01 (PwBD- VI)

The detailed advertisement with regard to Age, Qualification, Experience, Mode of applying, Selection procedure etc. are available at HAL Website **www.hal-india.co.in.** The last date for receipt of online application is **16.08.2025.** Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any will be hosted on HAL website only.

Dy. General Manager (HR)
HAL, Helicopter Division

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Tiger deaths that occurred outside tiger reserves since 2021

50 In per cent. More than half of the tiger deaths in India between 2021 and the end of 2025 have occurred outside protected reserves, with Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh accounting for the highest numbers. According to NTCA, 341 tiger deaths occurred outside tiger reserves. PTI

Number of countries to join International Big Cat Alliance

24 The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led global initiative to protect seven species of big cats. 12 countries — India, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Suriname — are members of the alliance. PTI

Cost of U.S. tariffs on Poland as per preliminary estimates

2.16 In $ billion. The new U.S. tariffs on European products could cost Poland around 8 billion zlotys ($2.16 billion), according to preliminary estimates. Poland does not export many products directly to the U.S., but expects to suffer knock-on effects. REUTERS

Cost of Arunachal's plan to transform the State's power sector

6,519 In ₹ crore. The Arunachal Pradesh government rolled out a ₹6,519-crore plan to transform the State's power sector, aimed at reducing losses, by modernising the electricity grid, and ensuring a reliable power supply. PTI

Estimated increase in collections from surcharges in 2025-26

13 In per cent. The Centre aims to collect cess of over ₹4.18 lakh crore in the current fiscal, an 8% growth over the collections as per the Revised Estimates of Union Budget FY25. Collections from surcharges are expected to increase to over ₹1.72 lakh crore. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

What did the ICJ say on climate obligations?

How has the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice reiterated the fundamental principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change? What does the opinion state about Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities? Does it introduce any new obligations?

EXPLAINER

T. Jayaraman
Tejal Kanitkar

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of countries to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and the legal consequences of the harm occasioned by their failure to meet these obligations, on July 23 has been the subject of much discussion. While it is a welcome affirmation of the multilateral climate regime at a time when the U.S appears to have damaged it through its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, it also raises questions on, inter alia, its interpretation of the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement and its occlusion of the development imperatives of the global South.

How has it upheld the case for the global South?

The ICJ's opinion has several elements that the global South, including India, should be able to welcome. First, the Court has emphasised the significance of the totality of the climate regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. This is in sharp contrast to the view of developed countries that have argued for sidelining the Convention and dismissing the Protocol, stating that the Paris Agreement had become the sole binding instrument of the multilateral climate regime. Across several paragraphs in its opinion, the Court has set out how the obligations of countries, especially those of developed nations, flow from various articles of the UNFCCC, particularly the provision of extending climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to developing countries by developed nations. In underlining the foundational role of the UNFCCC, the Court has also reiterated the significance of the Convention's Annex-I and Annex-II, noting that the developed countries listed therein will continue to have additional obligations compared to the rest of the world. This is a firm rebuff, not only to the governments of the global North, but also to a vocal section of climate academia, that had proclaimed the end of Annex-based differentiation since the Paris accord was signed.

In yet another affirmation of the global South's perspective, the ICJ opinion identifies the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC), drawing on Article 3 of the Convention, as the "core guiding principle for determining the implementation of the climate change treaties". Further in para 152, it affirms universality to the CBDR&RC principle, noting that it "guides the interpretation of obligations under international environmental law beyond its express articulation in different treaties", opening up the possibility for extending the principle to arenas like biodiversity.

Additionally, the ICJ's opinion notes the qualification to differentiation between developed and developing nations introduced by the Paris Agreement with the addition of the phrase, "and in the light of national circumstances" to the term CBDR&RC. The Court views the qualification as a nuance which points out that what constitutes a 'developed' or 'developing' nations is not static. This will undoubtedly be a bone of contention in further interpretations of this opinion.

Climate action now: Villagers gather around a well to draw water in Telamwadi, northeast of Mumbai, India, on May 6, 2023. AP

What about the temperature goal?

While these reaffirmations of the fundamental principles and values of the climate regime are noteworthy there is also much in the opinion that conforms to the narrative that developed countries, allied with some of the small island states and a range of vulnerable developing countries, have attempted to build over the years in interpreting the Paris Agreement.

The opinion insists that the temperature target for limiting global warming as in Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement, no longer holds in defining the obligation of states. Article 2.1 clearly designates "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" as the primary goal, while "pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C."

However, the Court argues that two paras from decisions of the 26th and 28th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, in which Parties have expressed agreement with the need to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, constitute an agreement among Parties to rewrite the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement itself. Hence, the opinion concludes, Parties' mitigation efforts must be aligned with collectively achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal and not the range provided in the Agreement. This is a strange conclusion considering that the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold is likely to be passed in a very few years. Nor does the opinion engage itself with the consequences of the breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal. Even to lay opinion, it appears very odd that decisions taken in implementing an agreement should be interpreted as modifying the terms of the agreement itself.

Much of the Court's enthusiasm for the 1.5 degrees Celsius target appears to stem from uncritical cherry-picking of a few headline statements from the Sixth Assessment Cycle reports (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Court has not considered it necessary that the IPCC reports themselves should be subject to scrutiny through the lens of equity. This is evident when it uncritically cites the IPCC's global target of GHG emissions reduction of 43% below 2020 levels by 2030 and 65% by 2035 for limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The recently concluded annual climate meeting of the UNFCCC held at Bonn, Germany, itself has now acknowledged the lack of equity and CBDR&RC in such projections.

Has the Court broken new ground on enforcing obligations?

Despite the extensive discussion on the obligations of states, in the context of climate laws and more generally in international law, the opinion does not articulate a more stringent framework of enforcement. In direct continuity with the established interpretation of the Paris Agreement by the global North, it holds that the provision of means of implementation as well as domestic mitigation action are only obligations of conduct (this means a duty which is to be performed towards achieving an outcome rather than guaranteeing the outcome itself). Only procedural aspects of the Paris Agreement, such as the timely and periodic submission of Nationally Determined Contributions are held to constitute stronger obligations of result. The opinion argues that even as obligations of conduct, the requirements on countries to meet their commitments can be sufficiently stringent. However, it depends on suitable courts with the requisite jurisdiction to enforce them and is contingent on the circumstances of every individual case.

At best, the Court's opinion may be welcomed for reiterating the original intent of the Paris Agreement, in the face of the growing reluctance of developed nations to meet their obligations, but it breaks no significant new ground in this regard. Given the lack of appetite for climate action in the global North, and their opposition to even these weak obligations, the reiteration by the Court is undoubtedly of some value.

What are some of the gaps in the opinion?

The most striking lacuna in the opinion is its near-total sidelining of the twin challenge that global warming poses to the development of the global South, that is extensively discussed even in the IPCC. On the one hand southern nations will be increasingly unable to meet their energy needs for rapid poverty eradication and sustainable growth in the absence of adequate carbon space, while on the other hand low-carbon development requires finance and technology on a scale that remains out of reach.

As Judge Xue Hanqin notes, in concluding her separate opinion, "the Advisory Opinion fails to point out that, for peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change, the ultimate solution to guarantee them a clean, healthy and sustainable climate lies in a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all states based on international co-operation between developed and developing states."

With the opinion falling short on these two key issues for the global South, its qualification that equity and CBDR&RC would introduce no new obligations but only guide the interpretation and implementation of climate treaties, should be a matter of concern for developing countries. Much of the enthusiasm in global civil society for the opinion, stems from the prospect of further litigation at the national or regional level, with the opinion allowing the possibility that affected countries such as small island states could claim reparation or compensation. However, the opinion also makes clear that these would require independently establishing attribution, "wrongfulness" and causation regarding the actions of Parties held responsible for harm, though it opens the door to their more expansive interpretation.

On the issue of concerted global climate action though, and at the climate negotiations, it is unlikely that the advisory opinion would substantially move the needle, reproducing existing fault lines rather than overcoming them. As several of the separate opinions from various judges themselves indicate, the opinion may represent a missed opportunity rather than a game-changing intervention in the global climate discourse.

T. Jayaraman is at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Tejal Kanitkar is at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The ICJ opinion identifies the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC), drawing on Article 3 of the Convention, as the "core guiding principle for determining the implementation of the climate change treaties".
- The opinion insists that the temperature target for limiting global warming as in Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement, no longer holds in defining the obligation of states.
- The Court's opinion may be welcomed for reiterating the original intent of the Paris Agreement, in the face of the growing reluctance of developed nations to meet their obligations, but it breaks no significant new ground in this regard

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA

113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bengaluru-560 004,
Ph: 080-025401160, 025401161, Email: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE

APPENDIX - IV, (See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Smt.Kusuma

Sri.Praveen Kumar.D

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12), 13(2) of the said Act, read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a recall notice dated: **21/05/2025** calling upon the borrower **Sri.Praveen Kumar.D.** S/o.David, aged about 37 years, residing at No.289, 1st Cross, Opp.to MVJ College, AKG Colony, K.Channasandra, Kadugodi, Bangalore-560067 demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.21,25,873/-(Rupees Twenty One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Three only)** together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by him, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and Schedule property owner and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property owned by **Smt.Kusuma** mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **29th day of July 2025.**

The borrower and Schedule property owner in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of **M/s.Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha** for a sum of **Rs.21,82,573/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy Three only) of **Sri.Praveen Kumar.D** and **Rs.25,59,393/-(Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Three Only)** of **Smt.Kusuma** respectively and both combined together **Rs.47,41,966/-** (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Six Only) **as on 29/07/2025** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.178, BBMP Katha No.662/115/178, Carved out of Sy.No.115, situated at A.K.Gopalan Colony, Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring East to West:37-0 feet, North to South: 26-0 feet, totally measuring an extent of 962 Sq.ft, consist of Ground, First Floor and Second Floor and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Property of Balu, North by: Property of Anusuya, South by: Masjid.

Date : 29.07.2025 **Sd/-**
Place: Bangalore **Authorised Officer**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY — SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

TENDER NOTICE No: S/2025/108 Date:25.07.2025

"THROUGH E- PROCUREMENT TENDERS"

The Principal Chief Material Manager, North Western Railway, headquarter 3rd floor, Near Jawahar circle, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur-302017 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tenders on www.ireps.gov.in site as follows. All the E- tenders will be closed at 14.25 hrs.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Unit	Due Date
1	37251899	Bogie centre pivot top	3010	Nos.	19.08.2025
2	6324ENG38	Running Contract for Manufacture & Supply of PSC sleepers	5329	Nos.	18.08.2025
3	37252138	Poly Ring	49732	Nos.	19.08.2025
4	6325ENG05	Running Contract for Manufacture & Supply of 10 mm thick CGRSP	3231400	Nos.	11.08.2025
5	50255262	Relay QNNA 1	4826	Nos.	18.08.2025
6	6324ENG82	Running contract for Manufacture and supply of Prestressed Wider Concrete Sleepers	6288	Nos.	02.09.2025
7	6324ENG80	Running contract for Manufacture and supply of Pre-stressed Monoblock Concrete Sleepers turnouts	151	Set	04.08.2025
8	85251035D	B.G.direct mounted roller bearing	390	Nos.	27.08.2025
9	65255016	Design, manufacture, supply, installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the Online Monitoring of Rolling Stock	04	Nos.	12.08.2025
10	50255253	SSBPAC	21	Nos.	07.08.2025
11	50255030	POINT MACHINNE 220 MM	221	Nos.	25.08.2025
12	37251898B	Wide jaw adapter	6864	Nos.	26.08.2025

CORRIGENDUM

S.No	Tender No	Nit No	Description	Amendment	TOD Existing	TOD Revised
1	37253065	S/2025/106 Dt.27.06.2025	Spares of APM	Modification in Description	17.07.2025	05.08.2025
2	65245037	S/2025/107 Dt.14.07.2025	Existing	----------	24.07.2025	04.08.2025
3	65255016	----------	Qty. Existing	04 Nos.	24.07.2025	12.08.2025

Note (1) Interested tenderers may visit the website ireps.gov.in for Full details/description/Specification/EMD & tender cost etc. All tenderers are requested to obtain digital signatures and get them registered on above site and quote electronically only. (2) For viewing and participating in other tenders such as open tender costing below Rs. 50 Lakh, limited tenders, special limited tenders and low value tenders, please visit **www.ireps.gov.in** **923-PS/25**

Follow us at /NWRailways NWRailways_

MYSORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

No.MDA/E-AN/01/2025-26/25.07.2025

CORRIGENDUM

The minimum bid change price **in the Sl.No.9** of Terms and Conditions of e-auction published in this publication on **27.07.2025** to be **corrected & read as Rs.25,000/- instead of Rs.10,000/-** for the sites which is having base price below Rs.1.00 Crore. Rest of the matter remains same.

Sd/- Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Divya Sridhar Rao** W/o **M Sridhar Rao Muthyam** r/at No.235 (12), 7th Main Road, Near Sita Circle, Nagendra Block, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru -560050, has contracted to buy the property described in the schedule below from 1) Smt. Vijayakumari Arumugam w/o Sri Arumugam, r/at No.203, Vivekananda Road, Ram Nagar, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu-641009, 2) Smt. Bhagyalakshmi. V, W/o Sri Vishwanathan, r/at No.20, 3rd Main Rd, Vinayaka Nagar B Block, Bangalore North, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017, 3) Sri Ranganathan Doraiswamy, s/o late Sri Doraiswamy, r/at No.7, Ranganathar Nilayam, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Sudham Nagar, Bangalore South, B'lore-560027, 4) Smt. Premalatha D w/o Sri Dhandapani, r/at No.31C, V.V.C. Road, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore, Rathinasabapathy Puram, Tamil Nadu-641 002, (5) Smt. T. Kaleswari W/o Sri K. Thiruvenkatarajan, r/at No.1, Kolla Vadukar Sandhu Rani Street, Tiruchirapalli Fort, Tamil Nadu-620008, 6) Smt. Gayathridevi Thyagarajan, Anna Salai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600 002.

Any person, authority, financial institution, or any other entity with any interest/claim in the property described in the schedule or who opposes the sale transaction in any manner may lodge objections in writing with relevant documentary proof at the client's address mentioned above within **15 days** from the date of publication of this public notice. If objections are not received within the specified time, it will be presumed that there are no impediments to concluding the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the house property bearing **Municipal No.75/1, B.B.M.P. P.I.D. No.48-16-75/1, EPID-4834557900,** consisting of **Ground Floor measuring 900 SqFt, 1st Floor measuring 900 SqFt & 2nd Floor measuring 900 SqFt** & the site measuring **East to West 38 feet & North to South 32¼ feet, totally measuring 1216 SqFt**, situated on 1st Main Road, Sudhama Nagar, Bengaluru -560027, coming within the limits of presently ward No.145, Sudham Nagar of BBMP. together with all fittings & fixtures, rights, appurtenances in what soever manner whether underneath or above the surface & bounded on:

East by: Property No.8 belonging to K. Chunchappa
West by: 25 Feet Road
North by: Property belonging to K. Doddaiah
South by: Property No. 18 belonging to A. Venkataramanappa

V.M. LAKSHMIPATHI, ADVOCATE
"Krishnarpana Building" No 26, I Floor, Dattatreya Cross Road, Bull Temple Rd, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004
Mobile No: 93413-15815
Place: Bengaluru, Date: 28.07.2025

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DHAMICHAND Manoharlal, s/o: Dharmichand Jain, r/o: No–47 BBMP Rd, Opp Rajalashmi Complex, Yelhanka, Blr–560064. Have changed my name as Dharmichand Manoharlal. Vide affidavit on 28/07/2025.

I, SHIFA Khanum D/o Basheer Khan, R/a No.11, 10th Cross, Kushal Nagar, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name from Shifaa Khanam to Shifa Khanum vide affidavit dt: 24.07.2025 sworn before Notary S.Samuel Solomon, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHREESHAIL SIDARAYA CHIKKALAKI S/o Sidaraya Chikkalaki R/o Ward No 01, Chadchan, PO: Chadchan, DIST: Bijapur, Karnataka–586205 changed my name to ADVAYA CHIKKALAKI.

I, BASHEER Ahmed Khaleel, S/o B A Khaleel, R/o No.10 3rd St, Nala Rd Elgin Palace, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-51 have changed my name to Burhanuddin Mohammed Basheer vide affidavit dt: 24.07.2025 sworn before Notary S.Samuel Solomon, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMAD Insha Khan, s/o: Shareef Ahmad Khan r/o: Flat No–104, D1–Block, Alpine Eco Apts, Doddanakundi, Marathahalli ORR, Blr–560037. Have changed my name as Mohd Insha Khan. Vide affidavit on 29/07/2025.

I, MALA. K.V., W/o. S Vijaya Prasad @ S.V.Prasad, R/a#A-507, Century Indus Apartments, K.G. Road, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore -560 098 have Changed my name as Mala Prasad after Marriage, vide Affidavit dated 05/07/2025 before Notary Varija. J.C, Bangalore.

BUYING / SELLING

SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE

We Buy Old (Damaged) Silk Sarees, Silk Dhothies, Silver Jarigai, Tissue Sarees, Banaras, Mysore Silk at any Condition, Stone Articles (Best Pricewith Jaree, at any conditions.

SPOT CASH 30-07-2025 to 09-08-2025
SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE
No. 58, Krishna Building, Sampige Road, 5th Cross, Near Malleswaram Bridge, Bangalore.
Call: 9632781499

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO

OUR TOPPERS IAS 2024

Saichaitanya 283/500

Manish 285/500

Batch Starts: Aug 5 (2 pm)

Batch Highlights
- 300+ Answers Prepared & Evaluated
- Test Series Included
- Time-bound Answer-writing after Prelims
- Personalized Mentoring
- PYQs Analysis
- Full Support Till Success
- Fee Rewarded Back for IAS, IPS IFS selections

THEY SCORED (Classroom Students) MORE IN OPTIONAL THAN AIR 1(279) & AIR 2(269) {PSIR}

Test Series 2026 ▸16 Tests (12 Sectional +4 FLT) ▸Discussion with Vaid Sir ▸Flexible Scheddule ▸Individual Evaluation

VAID'S ICS, DELHI
For details visit www.vaidsics.com or call 953 800 1600

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (MAYOHALL) (CCH-74) AT BANGALORE

O.S. No. 25565/2024

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Lakshmamma, W/o Late Boranna, Aged about 85 years, **...PLAINTIFF No. 1**

2. Sri. Ramesh Kumar B.L, S/o Late Boranna, Aged about 65 years, **...PLAINTIFF No. 2**

Both are residing at No.30, 1st Main Road, 7th Cross, ISRO Layout, Bangalore-560078

AND : B. Sujatha & Ors ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS NO. 1 AND 2, UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE

1. Smt. B. Sujatha, W/o H.C. Krishnappa, Aged about 61 years, Principal, Navajyothi High School, Tattaguppe Village, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore South Taluk. **...DEFENDANT No. 1**

2. Sri. H.C. Krishnappa, S/o Late. Chikkana, Aged about 62 years, Both Defendants (1) and (2) are residing at No. 906, 12th Main Road, Vikkram Layout, (ISRO Layout), Bikasipura, Bangalore-560078. **...DEFENDANT No. 2**

Whereas the plaintiffs have filed a suit seeking relief of eviction and possession. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court **on 04/09/2025 at 11.00 AM** in person or by a pleader duly instructed.

Take notice that in default of your appearance the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence.

SCHEDULE A

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing House List No. 166, Present No.12/32/16, Premises No. 11 & 12, (in converted Sy.No. 31/1B), measuring an extent of 1 Acre 20 Guntas, converted for non-agricultural / residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN.SR.34/81-82, dated 23/07/1982, issued by Tahsildar, Bangalore South Taluk, situated at YELACHENAHALLI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bounded on: **East By:** Private Property, **West By:** House List No. 165, **North By:** Road, **South By:** Private Property.

SCHEDULE B

Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.2, on the Ground Floor of the "Gurupriya Residency" situated at Schedule "A" property, with a super built up area of 800 Square Feet, consisting of Hall, 2 bed rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom with attached Toilet with Marble Flooring, Teak wood is used for doors and windows. Together with 12% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule "A" property. The Schedule Property consists Split, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor only.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 18th day of July 2025.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFFS
AJAY GOVINDRAJ, Advocate
No. 101, Ramanashree Chambers, Lady Curzon Road, Bangalore-560001.
Ph. : 41483633 / 41600331

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL, my client, **Mr. Selvakumar .M** intend to purchase from the Vendors by name, **Smt. K MEERA & Mr. K GOVIND JANAKIRAM** both of them inherited the schedule Property from late K Kamaraj all are residing @ Chennai, Hence, this public notice.

My client Purchasing Schedule Property by creating a charge by borrowing a housing loan from State Bank of India & hence any person, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person **within seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the Schedule Property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property immovable residential property **bearing New No. 7 (old No. 8),** PID No. 75-19-7, G No. **14th Street, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, Bangalore 560008,** measuring East to West: **37 ¾ feet** and North to South **19 ¼ feet,** together with building thereon comprising **700 sq ft,** in basement 700 sq ft, in Ground Floor, 200 sq ft, in First Floor with all civic amenities, all in as is where is condition, with all appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on:

East by : Dasara Chanappa's Property, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Sri. Annappa's Property.

Mr. MASOOD ALI KHAN MECCI
ADVOCATES
No.23-A, Ground Floor, HHS & HMS complex,Cubbonpet main Road, BANGALORE 560 002
M : 9845548279
Email : makmecci@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO),
LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION,
80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru. Ph No: 080-25037203/080-25037214.

Date: 29.07.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Item rate tenders are invited for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Miscellaneous civil works for Main Building at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2024/C/MI/011/ 2025-26 DATED:29.07.2025	₹ 9.43 Lakhs	₹ 18,860/-	03 Months
2	Providing sliding motorized gate and resurfacing existing approach road at main entrance near highway, LPSC(B) Campus, Tumakuru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2025/C/MI/012/ 2025-26 DATED: 29.07.2025	₹ 17.34 Lakhs	₹ 34,680/-	02 Months
2	Providing duty officer room at LPSC(B), Bengaluru. NIT No. : LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2026/C/MI/013/ 2025-26 DATED: 29.07.2025	₹ 11.48 Lakhs	₹ 22,960/-	03 Months

Sale Period: **From 29.07.2025 to 08.08.2025**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD LPSC (B)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby informed and notified that my client intends to enter into Joint Development agreement for the development of the properties mentioned below in the Schedule with its owner Sri. Manmit Singh Bagga Son of Gurucharan Singh, who claims he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property mentioned below having acquired the same under the Sale deed dated 25/04/2022 registered as document No. BSK-1-01020/2022-23 stored in CD. No. BSKD1294 in the office of the sub-registrar at Basavanagudi (Banashankari).

Any person/s having objection/s asserting claim, right, title or interest, charge, lien, can contact the undersigned within **15 days** with all documentary proof. If no objections are received within the prescribed time my client shall proceed with to enter into Joint Development Agreement for development as if no claims exist and that they have been waived or abandoned. Objection/s received thereafter shall not be binding on my client to develop the below mentioned properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1) All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No. 25/2, measuring 25 ½ Guntas, situated at Yamare Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the:
East by : Property of Sri. Ramaiah;
West by : Property of Sri. Seshappa;
North by : Property of Sri. Najundappa and Sri. Chinappa;
South by : Property of Sri. Narayana Reddy.

2) All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No. 125/2, measuring 13 Guntas, situated at Sompura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the:
East by : Property belonging to Sri. S. N. Rama Krishna Reddy;
West by : Property belonging to Sri. Ramaiah;
North by : Property belonging to Sri. S. N. Rama Krishna Reddy;
South by : Property belonging to Sri. Narayana Reddy.

3) All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No. 126, measuring 18 Guntas, situated at Sompura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District and bounded on the:
East by : Neeraganti Inam Land;
West by : Property belonging to Sri. Chinappa and Sri. Narayana Reddy;
North by : Property belonging to Sri. Kuruba Muniswamy;
South by : Property belonging to Sri. S. M. Rama Krishna Reddy.

Anusha, Advocate
2577, 4th Floor, 13th Cross, 26th Main, 1st sector, HSR layout, Bangalore 560102. 9900546686

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)
9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Bangalore -560011.

No: SADH(S)TENDER/11/2025-26 **Dated: 29.07.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Development of Parks as per standard tender document KW-4.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	Beautification, Landscape development, water facility and other civil works in Basavanagudi Constituency Parks. **Total estimated cost :** 1,25,00,000/- **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000/-.
2.	Beautification, Landscape development, water facility and other civil works in Vijayanagara Constituency Parks. **Total estimated cost :** 1,25,00,000/- **EMD :** Rs. 2,00,000/-.

Calendar of events:
1) Date of Notification: 29.07.2025. 2) Tender can be downloaded from : 01.08.2025. 3) Pre bid meeting : 08.08.2025 at 4.00 PM. 4) Tender Closing Date: 11.08.2025 at 4.00 PM. 5) Technical bid opening date: 12.08.2025 at 4.30 PM. 6) Financially bid opening date : After Approval Technical Bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)

Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited

(Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala)
Thycaud P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-14
(Tel: 0471-2945600, 2945646), CIN.U24233KL2007SGC021616
email: admin.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website:www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in

No.KMSCL/Admn/9567/2025 **Dated: 26.07.2025**

E-Tender Notice

Kerala Medical Services Corporation invites quotations from efficient courier agencies for the distribution of medicines and medical equipments from its various district Drug warehouses, Karunya Medicine Depots, and Karunya Community Pharmacies.

Tender Cost: ₹ 14,514 (including GST)
Last Date for Tender Submission: 16.08.2025

For more details, visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in

Sd/- Managing Director

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR

(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) CIN NO. U45201RJ2013SGC083014, Regd. Office : 756, Police Head Quarter, Lal Kothi, Jaipur (Raj.), Phone: 0141-2740784, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpidcl@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक :- RPHCCL/469/NIT/2025-26/D-2051 दिनांक :- 25/07/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना सं0 18/2025-26

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार पाँच वर्ष की डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में क्रम संख्या 01 से 09 तक की निविदा Two Bid System तथा क्रम संख्या 10 एवं 11 की निविदा एकल मद के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रूपये 3224.05 लाख
ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	28 जुलाई 2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	19 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बन्धित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की बेबसाइट **www.police.rajasthan.gov.in/ www.sppp.raj.nic.in** एवं **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।

UBN No. : RID2526WLOB00205, RID2526WSOB00206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215

महाप्रबन्धक
राज.संवाद/सी/25/7136 **राजस्थान पुलिस आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड**

Directorate of Medical Education

BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/06/2024-25 **Date: 28-07-2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Medical Equipments to Newly Established Critical Care Blocks at Govt. Medical Colleges / Institutes under PMABHIM Scheme.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded & applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 30-07-2025
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 13-08-2025 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 30-08-2025 before 4.30 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 01-09-2025 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/2080/Adverto/2025-26 **Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-Proc/AEE-1/2025-26/1479-496 Date:29.07.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work

KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2469

Combined Package for, **Work-A:** Creating 33kV reference by providing **1x20MVA**, 110/33-11kV Power Transformer at **110/11kV Mugalakhod Sub-station** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District. **Work-B:** Replacement of **2x10MVA,** 110/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 110/33-11kV Power Transformers at **110/11kV Lokapur Sub-station** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District. **Work-C:** Replacement of **1x10 MVA,** 110/11kV Power Transformer by **1x20MVA,** 110/33-11kV Power Transformer & providing additional 11kV MCVCB Switchgear at **110/33/11kV Mantur Sub-Station** in Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District,

on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments(Excluding supply of 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **01.08.2025 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **01.09.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech),
Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan,
Bengaluru - 560 009. Tel: 080-22243926.

Government of Karnataka

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS2/TND/2025-26/1965 Date : 25/ 07 /2025

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - CALL-2 ::

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work : 1. Providing and supplying of green and soft boards, sports materials to various Govt. Schools in Chincholi Taluka Indent No.7967, 2. Providing and supplying of projector, screen and interactive panel, printer with Xerox machine to various Govt. Schools in Chincholi Taluka Indent No.3696, 3. Providing and supplying of learning equipments, CCTV, libraries equipments to various Govt. Schools in Chincholi Taluka Indent No. 3543, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB FOR THE YEAR 2023-24 & 2024-25,** 3) Amount put to tender: Indent No.7967 Rs. **92,93,240.00,** Indent No.3696 **Rs. 79,78,978.00,** Indent No.3543 **Rs. 97,99,844.00**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class – III & Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **25-07-2025 to 11-08-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Indent No.7967 Rs. 1,86,000.00, Indent No.3696 Rs. 1,60,000.00 Indent No.3543 Rs. 1,96,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **25-07-2025 to 11-08-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **12-08-2025 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **13-08-2025 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/337/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Tamil Nadu

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

G.O. (Ms) No.124 Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SGS.2(1)) Department. Dated: 30.06.2025
Construction of 100 bridges in 28 Districts (2025-26)

1. For details, visit **www.tntenders.gov.in**
2. e-Bids are invited by the Additional Collector (Dev.)/Project Director, DRDA of Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Karur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Perambalur, Ranipet, Salem, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirapalli, Tirupathur, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Villupuram, Virudhunagar and Kallakurichi districts for the Construction of bridge works package wise under two cover system.
3. The package wise bid documents can be downloaded at free of cost from **www.tntenders.gov.in 01.08.2025** onwards and upto the date mentioned below.
4. Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:

i)	Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid documents	**19.08.2025 upto 3.00 pm**	27 Districts - 94 Bridges
ii)	Date and Time of online opening of Bid documents	**19.08.2025 4.00 pm onwards**	27 Districts - 94 Bridges
iii)	Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid documents	**02.09.2025 upto 3.00 pm**	4 Districts - 6 Bridges (Tiruvallur - 3, Cuddalore - 1, Perambalur - 1, Nagapattinam - 1)
iv)	Date and Time of online opening of Bid documents	**02.09.2025 4.00 pm onwards**	4 Districts - 6 Bridges (Tiruvallur - 3, Cuddalore - 1, Perambalur - 1, Nagapattinam - 1)

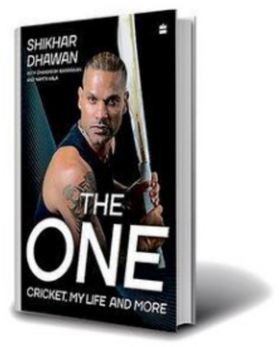
" Tender Cancellation Notice"

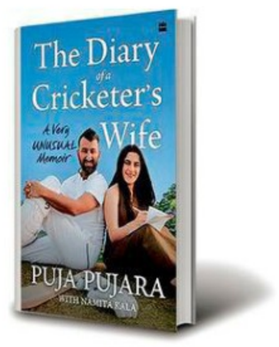
Note: Tender Notice issued vide DIPR No.3478/Tender/2025, dated 10.07.2025 Published in The Hindu (All India Edition) English daily stands cancelled.

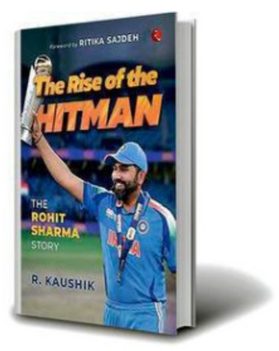
Commissioner
DIPR/3980/Tender/2025 **Rural Development and Panchayat Raj**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cricket craze: Players of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team with the championship trophy during their open bus victory parade, in Mumbai, on July 4, 2024. PTI







From the pitch: looking back at the sporting journeys of three Indian batters

For the best part of the 2010s, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Cheteshwar Pujara formed the bedrock of Indian batting along with Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane. The book on Rohit, Dhawan's memoir and Pujara's biography, penned by his wife, recount both their successes and setbacks

Vivek Krishnan

To play cricket for India is an honour that is accorded to a handful. To do so for more than a decade and be remembered for their deeds on the big stage is a monumental accomplishment that even fewer can take pride in. To undertake this arduous journey to the pinnacle of the sport requires an abundance of skill, sacrifice, hard work, hunger, dedication and discipline. As well as perhaps a slice of luck and serendipity.

A poignant reminder of the challenges involved in carving a long and successful career for India has come by virtue of recent books chronicling the lives of Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Cheteshwar Pujara.

For the best part of the 2010s, a period where India's status as a dominant cricketing power grew exponentially, these three formed the bedrock of the batting unit along with Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane, although not in the same formats. Rohit and Dhawan forged an extremely successful opening combination in the 50-over game while Pujara enshrined himself as India's No. 3 in Tests. Among the three, only Rohit gained recognition across all formats with the passage of time.

The three books meticulously recount their successes and setbacks on the playing field.

They also help us grasp the strenuous efforts in the early years that went into each of them, possessing distinctly varied personalities and playing styles, rising up the ranks from their respective cities and capturing a place in the hearts of a cricket-crazy country.

Chronicling the rise of Rohit

The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story (Rupa) by R. Kaushik pieces together the story of a boy from the bustling metropolis of Mumbai who matured into one of India's great openers and captains. In the introductory section, Kaushik writes: "Whether he likes it or not, he is already a legend – a status cemented after he led India to the T20 World Cup crown in Bridgetown." To back up the 2024 triumph by lifting the Champions Trophy title in March this year, the image of which adorns the book cover, means he is one of only two Indian captains – the other is M.S. Dhoni – to win two ICC trophies.

While the book doesn't encompass the protagonist's account, Kaushik, a senior journalist who has extensively covered the 38-year-old's international career right from its infancy, does a fine job of documenting Rohit's rise and career. There are compelling insights and anecdotes from many of Rohit's confidants, colleagues and coaches, including Rahul Dravid, V.V.S. Laxman, Anil Kumble, Yuvraj Singh and Ajit Agarkar among others.

In the early pages, the author traces Rohit's initiation into the game at the age of 12 as an off-spinner, and the rapid transition to a batting prodigy catching the attention of the who's who of Indian cricket. He was called up to the Mumbai nets at around 17, and took just another three years to don the India jersey.

While he swiftly sparkled with his languid strokeplay in India's triumph in the inaugural 2007 World T20, setbacks were in store as Rohit navigated the cut-throat environment of international cricket. Two major ones were an injury on the morning of what should have been his Test debut against South Africa in 2010 and his omission from India's ODI World Cup squad a year later.

The snub from the 50-over spectacle spurred Rohit to put things right. All the decisive moments of Rohit's journey are narrated in detail: the move to open the batting, hitting a record five centuries in the 2019 ODI World Cup, his legacy as a leader, the agony of losing the 2023 ODI World Cup final at home and the ecstasy of winning the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Dhawan's memoir

Rohit's former opening partner, Dhawan, tells his story in *The One: Cricket, My Life and More* (HarperCollins), with co-authors Chandresh Narayanan and Namita Kala.

Apart from elaborating on his achievements on the cricket field, the treatise throws light on Dhawan's life experiences and convivial nature. He is also candid about his troubled marriage and separation with Aesha Mukerji.

True to his character, the book has numerous anecdotes that bring a chuckle. Like the bit on how his 'Gabbar' moniker was given to him by a teammate because he rattled off the dialogues of the iconic character from Sholay while fielding at silly point during a domestic match for Delhi. There are also startling revelations about being approached to fix matches twice in his career, first in the now-defunct Indian Cricket League and then during the IPL. He dealt with it promptly and dutifully in both instances.

On how he would want to be remembered, Dhawan notes: "A man who played with heart, who smiled through his battles, who didn't complicate life."

Pujara's story

At the other end of the spectrum is Pujara, both in demeanour and style of play. And the book pertaining to the 37-year-old is a unique offering, for his wife Puja has turned author to tell his story from a partner's outlook.

The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife (HarperCollins), co-written with Namita Kala, is an engaging read that depicts not just the struggles and sacrifices of the ace batter in acquiring prominence, but also of supportive family members.

For example, on the morning of a Test in Perth during India's tour of Australia in 2018-19, Pujara's father suffered a heart issue in the wee hours in Rajkot for the second time in three months. Puja discloses how she and other relatives sprung into action and rushed the senior Pujara to hospital. They didn't keep the junior Pujara in the know until the end of the Test so that his focus didn't waver from the challenge of conquering the Australian bowlers.

Puja is also forthcoming on the feeling of hurt and anger that festered inside her when her husband was dropped from India's Test team in 2023. "I was outraged! And overwhelmed. Upset by the latest turn of events, I found it difficult to wrap my head round the fact that Cheteshwar was once again expected to shoulder the sole blame for India's defeat," she writes.

Such passages remind us that these elite cricketers and their families, for all their stupendous efforts on and off the field, are human at the end of the day.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

July 29 marks the death anniversary of Vincent van Gogh. The second part of a quiz on the Dutch master whose style continues to be an object of aesthetic attraction

Prathmesh Kher

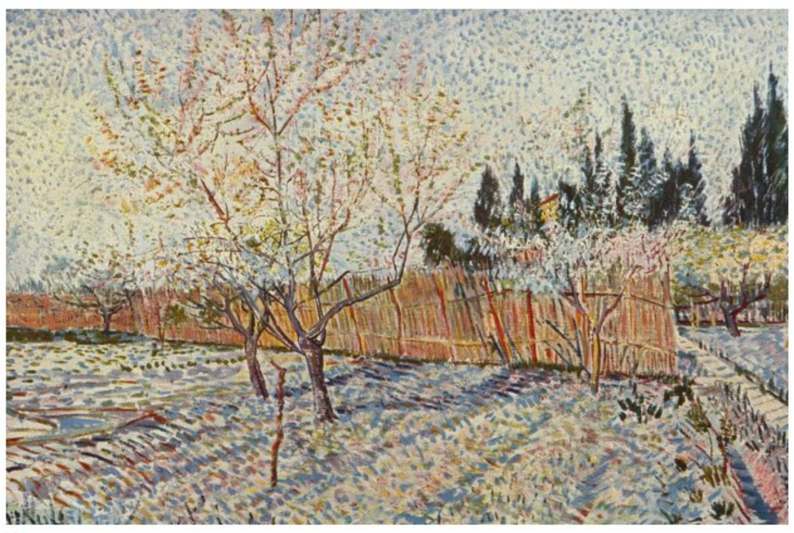
QUESTION 1
What was the title of the art society exhibition in 1890 where Van Gogh's work was displayed, and which drew critical attention in Paris?

QUESTION 2
What short-lived artist colony did Van Gogh hope to establish in Arles, and who was its first and only member besides Van Gogh?

QUESTION 3
The Red Vineyard was the only painting Van Gogh sold during his lifetime. Who purchased it?

QUESTION 4
Van Gogh died of a gunshot wound in 1890. What were his reported final words, and what do they reveal about his state of mind?

QUESTION 5
Which artist painted Van Gogh on his deathbed?



Visual question:
What is the title of this painting, how much did it sell for, and why does it stand out among Van Gogh's body of work and the broader art market?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Several historians say an argument with a fellow painter led to Van Gogh cutting off his ear. **Ans: Paul Gauguin**
2. Japanese auteur Akira Kurasawa paid homage to Van Gogh with this segment in this anthology. **Ans: Crows; Dreams**
3. Name the hand-painted animated feature that came out in 2017 as a homage to the artist. **Ans: *Loving Vincent***
4. Van Gogh stayed here when he painted the Starry Nights. **Ans: Saint-Paul Asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**
5. Name the only painting by Van Gogh that was sold while he was alive. **A: The Red Vineyard**
Visual: The meaning Van Gogh intended to convey with his painting, the 'Bedroom in Arles'. **Ans: A desire for absolute rest**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Sumana Dutta| Sunil Madhavan| Tamal Biswas| Sudhir Thapa

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"You attended Sheela's wedding. How was the boy?"

"He has a good personality. He is tall and handsome."

"Personality in Indian English refers to the physical features. In English it refers to the distinctive character or qualities of a person – not the physical features. The word nuptial refers to marriage or wedding in English. In South Indian English it refers to the consummation of the wedding (*Santhi Muhurtham*)."

"Now that your exams are over, what are you doing?"

"Keeping quiet."

"You mean you are silent."

"No. I am not doing anything."

"If you are keeping quiet, you are silent. In Indian English it means you are not doing anything."

"I am going to practise athletics and I am going to the sportsfield."

"Do you know what gymnastics means? It means 'naked'. In Greece, the athletes practised in the nude."

"Oh God!"

"Yes. It was considered good for health. Boys and men practised in the nude."

"Good, I don't have to go nude."

"Do you know who is a lord?"

"He is a keeper of the loaf. *Hlaf Weard*."

"Who is a lady?"

"A lady is a kneader of the bread."

"Who is an assassin?"

"Whether you picture the typical assassin as steely, cold, precise, and calculating or as wild, drug-crazed, and passionate, the original assassins were clearly of this second type. They were members of a widespread Islamic sect, who regarded the murder of enemies a religious duty. In Syria, during the Middle Ages, they harassed the Christian crusaders and the word reached Europe.

It was believed, rightly or wrongly, that these fanatical warriors took hashish (an Arabic – and English – word for cannabis, originally meaning perhaps 'dried grass') before going on their terror raids, in order to intensify their courage and daring. It was their leader, known as 'The Old Man of the Mountains,' who apparently urged them to do this.

So assassin goes back, through French and Medieval Latin, to the Arabic hashshashin, 'hashish eaters.'"

Published in The Hindu on June 10, 1997.

Word of the day

Hewn:
cut or shaped with the hard blows of a heavy cutting instrument like an axe or chisel

Synonyms: cut, carve

Usage: *While walking up the street, we saw a path hewn through the hedge of the mansion.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/hewnpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /hju:n/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Blood group not found anywhere else in the world discovered at city centre

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A historic milestone in transfusion medicine has been achieved at the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre, wherein a new blood group, previously unidentified anywhere in the world, has been discovered in a 38-year-old South Indian woman.

The International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) at Bristol in the U.K., which detected the unknown blood group antigen after 10 months of extensive research and molecular testing, has found this new antigen to be part of the Cromer (CR) blood group system. In recognition of its origin, the group has been officially named 'CRIB', with CR representing Cromer and IB standing for India, Bengaluru.

When the 38-year-old woman was admitted to the R.L. Jalappa Hospital and Research Centre in Kolar for a cardiac surgery in February last year, little did she know she would make history. Her blood group was O Positive. The surgeons asked the hospital blood bank to keep compatible blood in readiness prior to the surgery. But they could not find a single matched unit from their stock of O Positive blood.

Ankit Mathur, Additional Medical Director at the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that her blood sample was sent from Jalappa hospital to the Advanced Immunohematology Reference Lab at Rotary Bangalore TTK

The new blood group has been officially named 'CRIB', where CR represents Cromer and IB stands for India, Bengaluru.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Blood Centre, where it was found to be 'Panreactive'. This means it was incompatible (not matching) with all the samples they tested using advanced techniques. "This case was very complicated, and it was a strong indication of a rare blood group. Since rare blood types sometimes occur as clusters in a family, we collected blood samples from 20 of her family members, including her children. However, none of her family members were a match either. We counselled her family and physicians, and thankfully, her surgery and recovery were managed smoothly without the need for any blood transfusions," Dr. Mathur said.

"In future, if the woman needs a blood transfusion, we may have to do an autologous transfusion. If it is a planned surgery, we may have to give her iron supplements to boost her haemoglobin levels and collect her own blood and use it if necessary for the surgery," he explained.

Subsequently, the blood samples of the patient as well as the family were sent to the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL), Bristol, U.K. "After about 10 months of advanced testing, the IBGRL reported that she has a never-before-described blood group antigen. It was a new antigen within the blood group system called Cromer (CR)," said Soumee Banerjee, consultant (Transfusion Medicine) at the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre. At the 35th Regional Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT), held in Milan, Italy, on June 4, 2025, this antigen was named CRIB. "This makes the woman the first person in the world to present with this antigen. The blood group nomenclature is decided by the ISBT, Red Cell Immunogenetics and Terminology," Dr. Banerjee said.

To support the blood requirements of patients with rare blood groups, Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre's Bangalore Medical Services Trust, in association with the Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Council, and ICMR's National Institute of Immunohaematology, launched a 'Rare Blood Donor' programme in January 2024.

Honour for Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS Yelahanka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Air Force Station (AFS) Yelahanka was 'dedicated to the nation' as the 'Best PM Shri School' from Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools (KVs) in Bengaluru region.

This recognition was part of the fifth anniversary celebrations of the National Education Policy, which was marked by an event hosted by the Ministry of Education in New Delhi. To mark the occasion, celebrations were held at PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS Yelahanka, where a plaque was unveiled by Air Commodore Rohith Vijaydev, chairman of the Vidyalaya Management Committee and Air Officer Commanding, AFS Yelahanka. Dignitaries such as Wg. Cdr. Shreeprakash J. and Group Captain Yashdeep Dabbas, AFS Yelahanka; Hema K., Assistant Commissioner, KVS regional office Bengaluru, and Madan Mohan, school principal were present.

Entry fee for Bannerghatta zoo goes up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Zoo Authority of Karnataka has announced a revision in the entry fees for the zoo at Bannerghatta Biological Park, effective from August 1.

According to a release from the Executive Director of the Bannerghatta Biological Park, the revised entry fees are as follows: ₹120 for adults (earlier ₹100), ₹60 for children (earlier ₹50), ₹70 for senior citizens (earlier ₹60). There is no change in entry fee for the butterfly park.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 30	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:47
RISE 10:34	SET 22:38
THURSDAY, JUL. 31	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:47
RISE 11:21	SET 23:14
FRIDAY, AUG. 01	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:47
RISE 12:07	SET 23:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **C.Rayappa Son of Chowrappa** is the land in Survey Number 25 (Old Survey Number 25/p18), measuring 1 Acre, situated at **Tattiguppe Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru** has lost the below mentioned Original Title deed in transit. Accordingly, he has lodged a police complaint on 22.07.2025 at Mico Layout Police station BTM Layout Bengaluru City. The Public is hereby cautioned not to transact with anybody claiming to be the owners of the above said Property holding the below mentioned lost original documents. Any transactions made without our knowledge will be at their risk and cost.

1. Sale deed bearing document No.5806/1963-64 dated 04.03.1964 pages 131-132 bearing Volume No.440 registered in Book I at Bangalore South Sub-registrar
2. Sale deed bearing document no.1916/1980-81 executed on 04.06.1980 pages 243-245 bearing Volume No.1508 registered in Book I at Bangalore South Sub-registrar.

Whoever finds the documents kindly handover the documents to below mentioned address:

M/s. Jury Legal Solutions,
Advocates
No.8, 14th Cross, 14th Main,
4th Sector, HSR Layout,
Bangalore-560102. Ph : 9482063999
9945044999, 9902195500
Bangalore Date : 30-07-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **MR. ANTONY PAUL VINOTH S/o Mr. G.T. Robert** and his wife **MRS. CATHERINE** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs. AMARAVATI W/o Mr. Chowdappa,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of vacant Site No. 20, ePID No. 8482546082, formed out of Property No. 544, situated at Kalkere Village, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East by 21.5 Feet, West by 24.5 Feet, North by 26.088 Feet, South by 26.088 Feet, in all measuring 600.024 Square Feet, presently coming under BBMP limits, and bounded on the:
East By : Site No. 19, West By : Remaining portion of Site No. 20, North By : 25 Feet Road, South by : Private Property.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:
Smt. Thulsidevi C K, D/o Late Kurishappa, Smt. Arundhathi D/o Late Kurishappa, Gajendra S/o Late Kurishappa, Keerthi D/o Late Kurishappa, Karthik S/o Late Kurishappa, Tarun Son of Late Triveni, Trishanth Son of Late Triveni, Thimmakka Late Venkatarayappa, Gangadhar Son of Late Narashimaiah, Rajamma wife of Narashimaiah, Kadriappa Son of Late Venkataramanna, Anjinamma, wife of Late Narayanshingh, Chinnakka Daughter of Late Singarappa, Bhagyamma daughter of Late Venkataryappa, Mallikadaughter of Late Venkataryappa, Munilakshamma daughter of Late Venkataryappa, Venkatesh son of Late Venkataryappa have represented that they are the absolute owner and in joint possession and has a valid marketable title to sell the schedule property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder:
It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the above said land owner. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule property or any part thereof by way of inheritance. Mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, agreement to sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication hereof failing which my client shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any , will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy No 15 measuring 4 Acre 11 Guntas situated at Anakanur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkabalapur Taluk and District.
Dated this 29th day of July 2025.

AMBRISH B N, Advocate
4708, 7th Floor, High Point - IV,
Palace Road, Bengaluru 560001
Ph. No. 9845594939

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 06-CWS-MYSS-2025-26
Dated : 24-07-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Conversion of 06 BG coaches into ART/ARME coaches.	Rs. 18,02,478.76

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:30 Hrs on 15-08-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Workshop Manager
PUB/344/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

मंडल रेल प्रबंधक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एंव उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अंतर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है– **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025-26:** 85 of 2025-26, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Construction of RUB/LHS in lieu of LC No.C-264, C-274, C-307, 319, 331A on SMR-MBF section under ADEN/BME of Jodhpur Division, **अनुमानित लागत रुपये:** 168506021.44, **बयाने की राशि रुपये:** 992500.00, **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025-26:** 86 of 2025-26, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Various activities in C/W Through Ballast Recoupment (TBR) 129.15 Km. & other Miscellaneous maintenance work in the section of ADEN/Barmer of Jodhpur Division, **अनुमानित लागत रुपये:** 127373866.86, **बयाने की राशि रुपये:** 786900.00, निविदा सूचना संख्या 85 of 2025-26 एंव 86 of 2025-26 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 18.08.2025 को 15.00 बजे तक है वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है– www.ireps.gov.in **928-PS/25**
हमें /NWRailways NWRailways_पर फॉलो करें

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my client **Mr. Arun Kumar S and Mrs. Renuka** to the general Public that my client has negotiated with **Mrs. B.R. HEMA**, the sole and absolute owner of that the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder in respect to all that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant property bearing No. 15 (Fifteen), presently bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike E-Aasthi Khata Property New PID No. 1102714215, Property No. 7610/835/15/Kotthanuru, Old katha no.835 situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 1200 square feet.
Further, during the transit some of the original documents was lost and not traceable now by the owner. Hence, if any public finds the same, they are hereby informed to return it back to the owner. Hence this Publication. Further, any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption or under any Agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at the office of Ashvik Law Associates, Advocates and Solicitors, within a period of **7 days** of the publication. Non filing of such objection is considered as waver of rights by the objectors and have no right to claim subsequently.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant property bearing **No. 15 (Fifteen),** presently bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike **E-Aasthi Khata Property New PID No. 1102714215,** Property No. 7610/835/15/Kotthanuru, Old katha no.835 situated at **Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring **1200 square feet,** and bounded on:
East by : Site No.8;
West by : 30 Feet Road;
North by : Site No.14;
South by : Private Property.

Ashvik Law Associates,
Advocates and Solicitors,
Office at No.24, First Floor,
Sri Rama Mandir Road,
Near to Lalbagh Metro Station,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली

(संसद के अधिनियम के तहत राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
(An Institution of National Importance enacted by an Act of Parliament, Ministry of Education, Government of India

प्रवेश एवम परीक्षा विभाग ADMISSION AND EXAMINATION SECTION

SPOT ROUND - I FOR VACANT SEATS IN PG COURSES

Applications are invited against the following vacant seats available for admission to the Master's Degree Courses for the Session - 2025-26 for a Spot Round.

S No.	Course	CATEGORY				
		OG	EWS	SC	ST	OBC
1	Master of Architecture (Architectural Conservation)	2	1	4	2	5
2	Master of Architecture (Landscape Architecture)	1	2	0	0	5
3	Master of Architecture (Urban Design)	1	1	0	0	1
4	Master of Building Engineering & Management	4	0	1	0	0
5	Master of Design (Industrial Design)	1	2	0	1	3
6	Master of Planning (Environmental Planning)	1	2	0	1	1
7	Master of Planning (Regional Planning)	0	1	0	0	2
8	Master of Planning (Transport Planning)	2	1	0	0	1
9	Master of Planning (Urban Planning)	0	1	0	0	0
10	Master of Planning (Housing)	1	3	0	1	1

Applications are also invited for:-
(1) PG seats for Wards of **Kashmiri Migrants** / Kashmiri Pandits and Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non-Migrants) living in Kashmir Valley are reserved as per the Central Government Norms.
(2) PG seats for **Physically Challenged Persons**, on a horizontal basis these will be adjusted against the respective reservations for OG, SC, ST and OBC Categories as per the Central Government Norms.

The last date for receipt of the applications under the all categories is **05th August, 2025**. For complete details, kindly refer to the School's website - **www.spa.ac.in** under the TAB - **"Admission - 2025-26"**.

Sd/-
Registrar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ನಂ. 55, ರಿಸಲ್ದಾರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 020.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 23460085, 23468949, 23462436, 23563506
E-mail: ksdb.ho@gmail.com, kscb_blr@rediffmail.com, Website: http://karnataka.gov.in/ksdb

No.KSDB/EE/No1.div/STT/IFT-4/2025-26/322 **Date: 24.07.2025**

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ Sinking of Borewells, Providing Pumping Machinery, Raising Main, Providing CC Road, RCC Drain, UGD Work, Other Development Works at Chamundinagara Slums and Other Different Slums of Basavanagudi Constituency, Bangalore City. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ KW-4ನಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.164.87ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ). ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 2,47,350.00/–ರೂಗಳು ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.07.2025 ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.08.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.08.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂ.1ನೇ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಕೊಅಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಕ.ಕೊ.ಅ.ಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/2088/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2025–26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites tenders for the following bid enquiry no's.

No. CEE/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AEE3/25-26/4886-88 Date: 28.07.2025

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE3/2025-26/0010/**CALL-2** Date: 28.07.2025 for procurement of 66KV class CT's (Ratios: 1600-1000/1-1-1A, 1200-800/1-1-1A & 200-100/1-1-1A) without mounting structure, marshaling box and terminal connectors required for maintenance of Substations in Transmission Operations Zone, Tumakuru.

No. CEE/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AEE3/25-26/4883-85 Date: 28.07.2025

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE3/2025-26/0011/**CALL-2** Date: 28.07.2025 for procurement of 66KV class CT's (Ratios: 800-400/1-1-1A, 400-200/1-1-1A & 1000-600/1-1-1A) without mounting structure, marshaling box and terminal connectors required for maintenance of Substations in Transmission Operations Zone, Tumakuru.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** OR KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** or click on hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' **on or after 04.08.2025.** The other details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, 66/11kV Tumakuru Sub-station Premises, Tumakuru-03. 0816- 2279074/75

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Executive Engineer RI (TEC-2), Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building,
BBMP Head Office, N.R.Square, Bangalore-560 002.

No: EE/TEC-2/PR/27/2025-26 Date: 29.07.2025

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Engagement of Urban Planners and Urban Designers on Contract Basis for the Urban Design Cell under Road Infrastructure.

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced professionals for engagement on a contractual basis for a period of one (1) year in the Urban Design Cell under Road Infrastructure Division. The details of the positions are as follows:

Position	Number of Posts	Educational Qualification	Experience	Preferred Skills or Responsibilities
Urban Designer/ Planner	**2**	Master's Degree in Urban Planning / Urban Design from a recognized university.	Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in street design, urban design, urban planning, land use planning or related fields. Must be able to communicate in Kannada.	Knowledge of Zoning, Master planning and spatial planning. Experience in Urban Design, GIS tools and urban data analysis, preparation of policy documents, coordination with multiple urban development stakeholders. Candidates with experience working on urban design projects in Bengaluru will be preferred.
Urban Transport Planning Expert	**2**	Master's Degree in Planning Transportation /Traffic Engineering/ Systems from a Urban Transport recognized university.	Minimum 5 years of relevant professional experience in urban mobility, active mobility, non-motorised & public transport planning or related fields. Must be able to communicate in Kannada.	Expertise in traffic analysis, transport modelling, active mobility, non-motorised and public transport planning. Familiarity with transport policies, road safety principles and smart mobility initiatives. Experience in preparing DPRs and feasibility studies. Candidates with experience working on urban design projects in Bengaluru will be preferred.

1. Key Responsibilities:
(1) Support the planning, design, and development of urban infrastructure projects, especially related to roads and transport.
(2) Provide technical expertise in urban policy, mobility planning, urban transport integration, and related strategies including walkability.
(3) Collaborate with stakeholders for the execution of the urban development initiatives, including full or partial pedestrianization of street projects.
(4) Assist in preparation of reports, project documents, project supervision and review of technical proposals from urban design perspective; adhering to global best practices and standards such as IRC and the Namma Raste Kaipidi.
(5) Contribute to planning and designing of road infrastructure and urban streetscapes with focus on safe active mobility - walking and cycling.
(6) Provide inputs for integrating aesthetics, functionality, and road safety with priority to pedestrian-friendly designs.
(7) Assist in GIS mapping, digital data repository, data collection, analysis, stakeholders consultations, and report preparation.
(8) Coordinate with relevant departments and consultants as required.

2. Remuneration:
Shall be commensurate with qualifications and experience as per industry standards.

3. Place of Posting: Urban Design Cell, Road Infrastructure Division, BBMP.

Application Procedure:
Interested candidates may submit their CV, qualification documents, and a brief cover letter highlighting relevant experience to the Executive Engineer (TEC-2), Ground Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Head offices, N.R.Square, Bangalore-560 002.
Last date for submission of applications: **10.08.2025**
Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
The authority reserves the right to cancel or modify this notification without assigning any reason.
For any queries, contact: 8904633197

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI TEC-2

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

No. 2150 // Dt. 25/07/25 //

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-08/2025-26

1. Name of the Work : Road Works
2. Total No. of Work : 07 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.423.03 to Rs.551.29 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion: As per Annexure
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-08/2025-26	04.08.25 at 10.00 A.M.	18.08.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	16.08.25 up to 1.00 P.M.	19.08.25 at 10.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-502: OIPR-25180/11/0060/2526

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mekedatu Project Division,
Harobele, Kanakapura Taluk,
Bangalore South District, E-mail : eemekedatu@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 02/2025-26 Date : 29-07-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The **CNNL** hereby invites Tender for the **Road and Other Development Works in Kanakapura Constituency** under 4701 head through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

The Last Date for Tender Submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid Dates, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal and for further information please visit office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mekedatu Project Division, CNNL,
Bangalore South District, Harobele.

DIPR/Ramanagar/266/Manipal/2025-26

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Verdict in one of the four rape cases against Prajwal Revanna expected today

Case concerns a 48-year-old woman who was working as a help at the family's Gannikada farmhouse in Hassan and was allegedly raped twice and the act recorded by the accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The trial in one of the four cases of sexual abuse and rape against Prajwal Revanna, former Hassan MP, concluded on July 18 and the orders were reserved for Wednesday.

The case concerns a 48-year-old woman who was working as a help at the family's Gannikada farmhouse in Hassan and was allegedly raped twice and the act recorded by the accused on his mobile phone.

She was allegedly abducted at the behest of Prajwal's parents, former Minister H.D. Revanna and Bhavani Revanna, to prevent her from testifying against their son after the scandal broke out in April, 2024. She was rescued from a farmhouse in K.R. Nagar by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by B.K. Singh, Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Prajwal Revanna

The trial in the rape case against Prajwal started in the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former present MPs and MLAs on May 2, 2025, and the trial was completed with daily hearings in just over two months.

Senior advocates Ashok Nayak and B.N. Jagadeesha were special public prosecutors in the case. Justice Santosh Gajanan Bhat presided over the trial and is expected to deliver the verdict on Wednesday.

The SIT filed a 1,632-page charge sheet with 113 witnesses in the case in September, 2024. Prajwal was booked under Sections 376(2)(k) (being in a position of control or dominance over a woman, commits rape on such woman), 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman) of the Indian Penal Code, and 66E (violation of privacy) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, among other sections. The charge sheet alleges that the victim was raped by the accused twice in 2021 – once at the family's Hassan residence and a few days later at the family's Bengaluru residence.

The accused allegedly recorded the video in the first instance. In the video, recovered by the SIT, the victim is reportedly seen resisting the advances and crying and breaking down. Though Prajwal's face is not visible in the video, the forensic analysis report indicates that it was him in the video. Moreover, the victim had kept her saris in a wardrobe where she was working and analysis found Prajwal's DNA on one of them. These form key evidence in the case, sources added.

Siddaramaiah hears grievances of Congress MLAs of four districts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a meeting with legislators in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After releasing a development grant of ₹50 crore to each Assembly constituency, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday held meetings with Congress MLAs of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Tumakuru, and Kodagu districts to hear grievances related to their constituencies and development works they had undertaken.

The meeting with MLAs assumed significance in the wake of the forthcoming Monsoon Session of the legislature next month and to drive home a point that all is well in the government amid the ongoing "power struggle" between the Chief Minister and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

Besides Mysuru district's status of overall development, Mr. Siddaramaiah has discussed ongoing development works as well as future works to be taken in each constituency in the next two-and-a-half years. Issues related to the utilisation of development funds and time required for completion of projects, and status of programmes announced in the State Budget were also discussed.

The MLAs told Mr. Siddaramaiah that the government's guarantees created a positive impact on the Mysuru district economy. He told MLAs to take welfare schemes to the doorsteps of the beneficiaries and gain their confidence.

The Chief Minister instructed legislators of the districts to actively participate in Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meetings and find solutions to the grievances of the public and officials' laxity in executing development work.

Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa and K. Venkatesh, the Chief Minister's Economic Adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi were present.

A few days ago, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala held meetings with MLAs and Ministers and he reportedly provided the feedback to the Chief Minister.

'Nothing wrong'

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said there was nothing wrong in the legislators' meeting called by the Chief Minister.

He said: "Calling a legislators' meeting is well within the power of the CM. What is wrong with it? Mr. Surjewala, who had held meetings with MLAs, has given his feedback to the CM. The legislators' meeting is regarding that. I have no problem with the meeting. I am not sure why it is troubling the media."

Asked why he was not invited for the meet, he said: "I have no issues with the meeting. I will hold a separate meeting with legislators concerned as we have a different agenda for Bengaluru city. I have also held discussions with many MLAs already."

About the Chief Minister's meeting with MLAs, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said: "These meetings are not new. The Chief Minister had previously held meetings at the KPCC office from 2013 to 2018. I was the KPCC president then. We all had heard the problems of the MLAs."

HC imposes fine of ₹10 lakh on five members of family

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court has imposed a fine of ₹10 lakh on five members of a family for playing "a game of hide and seek" with the judiciary with their ninth litigation, in which they were found to have suppressed the details of eight earlier unsuccessful litigation over a 40-year-old issue on land acquisition.

"What I witness is not the pursuit of justice, but a game of judicial hide and seek, where one of the family members of the grantee [of land] seeks invocation of the writ jurisdiction, while the other member hides. Later, the other member seeks, and the former hides. Such cynical use of writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India must be arrested in its tracks," observed Justice M. Nagaprasanna while dismissing a petition.

The petition was filed in 2025 by Gangamma and four others of Bengaluru seeking a declaration from the court that the acquisition of their land, granted in 1970s to their ancestors, during 1986 was deemed to have been dropped from acquisition 32 years ago by citing a non-gazetted government communication of 1993, which they did not rely in any of the earlier eight rounds of litigation, starting from 1994.

The litigation was over the acquisition of two acres and 20 guntas of land in survey number 26 of Nagadevanahalli, Kengeri hobli of Bengaluru South taluk, made during 1986-87, along with another 14 acres of land in favour of Gavipuram Extension House Building Cooperative Society Ltd., for its 'Gavipuram Extension HBCS Layout'.

Noticing that some of these petitioners were litigants in a few earlier rounds of litigation, the court said, "The petitioners are guilty of suppression of material facts."

In the least, the court said, it was expected of a scrupulous litigant, to divulge all the earlier litigation.

If the petition is now entertained on any score, the court said, it would "amount to putting a premium on litigative persistence of the petitioners and rewarding abuse of the process and tacit fraud played on this court, as this forms the ninth petition on the same cause of action, seeking the very same prayer, differently worded, after the dismissal of eight rounds of litigation."

CM to attend events in Delhi on August 1, 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be in New Delhi on August 1 and 2 to participate in two different programmes.

On August 1, he will attend "Bridge to Bengaluru", a dialogue with diplomats on global innovation alliance for technology as a prelude to India's flagship technology forum, Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025. The event will be held at Hotel ITC Maurya.

On August 2, he will attend a seminar on "Social Justice and the Constitution: Ideas of Equality and fraternity', organised by the AICC in Delhi.

Consultation on final notification on minimum wage begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid opposition from the industry to the proposed increase in minimum wages, which is being seen as labour friendly in the time of price rise, consultation over minimum wage fixation in the State commenced on Tuesday before the final notification is to be issued.

The Labour Department this April issued draft notification for fixing monthly minimum wages to 80 scheduled employment in the State. The proposed monthly minimum wage ranges from ₹19,319.36 for unskilled labourers to a maximum of ₹34,225.42 for highly skilled labour.

With the tripartite discussion remaining inconclusive on Tuesday, the State Minimum Wages Board will reconvene on August 28 to consider the arguments put forth by industry representatives and trade unions.

Though the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), representing eight trade unions in Karnataka, welcomed the government's decision to revise minimum wages based on Supreme Court norms, in its memorandum to the board it has taken exception to the department considering 2023 as the base year for calculating minimum wages instead of 2025 that could reflect current reality and market prices.

"There is a wage disparity and discrimination in certain scheduled employments. An unskilled worker in garment industry gets paid 40% lower in comparison to an unskilled worker in automobile sector. The draft notification continues the historical legacy of discrimination against the workers employed in beedi, plantation, and garment sectors," All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) State secretary M. Satyanand said.

Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) State secretary Meenakshi Sundaram urged for an upward revision in the rate of neutralisation of Variable Dearness Allowance from the present 4 paise per day per point increase in Consumer Price Index of Karnataka to 8 paise per day per point.

However, industry representatives said that the proposed minimum wage revision is too steep.

According to FKCCI president M.G. Balakrishna the hike is too steep at a time when industries were faced with global competition, and minimum wages in Karnataka will be far higher than the prevailing minimum wages in neighbouring States.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/HPT WS/2025-26/463 Date : 28-07-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER:-

1) Detail of Work : "Construction of 10.00 Lakh Litre capacity Shaft Type Over Head Tank on 15mtr staging @ Sy No. 134/B/3A Park Premises Balaji Nagar (Patel High School) in Hosapete city under Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Grants. (LUMPSUM) (No Variation) (Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS /WORK_INDENT363), 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 204.22 Lakhs (Excluding GST)**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 3,06,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 Months (Including Monsoon), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **30-07-2025 after 17:10 Hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **14-08-2025 at 11:30 Hours,** 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **30-08-2025 up to 17:15 Hours,** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **01-09-2025 after 11:05 Hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/340/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Tamil Nadu
Mangadu Municipality

Roc No: 3141/2025/E1 **Tender Notice** Dated: 29.07.2025
Form of Contract : Item rate, (Two Cover System)

Bids are invited by The Commissioner, Mangadu Municipality for Providing Under Ground Sewerage System in Mangadu Municipality at an estimate cost of **Rs.191.47 Crores** under KfW assisted SMIF-TN-III through online only. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost. 1% of value put to Tender to be paid towards bid security and Rs.25,000/- paid towards bid processing fees.

Important dates

1. Bid document download from : **06.08.2025 at 10.00 AM Onwards**
2. Date and time of Pre bid meeting : **21.08.2025 at 11.00 AM**
3. Place of Pre-bid Meeting : **Thiruverkadu Municipal Office, (Commissioner Chamber)**
4. Last date and time for downloading bid documents : **24.09.2025 upto 3.00 PM**
5. Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission only) : **24.09.2025 upto 3.00 PM**
6. Date and time of opening of the Technical Bids : **24.09.2025 at 3.30 PM**

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bids will be informed after scrutinizing the technical bids.

Commissioner
Mangadu Municipality

DIPR/3955/Tender/2025

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/various heads/2025-26/ 662 Dt. 28-07-2025.

Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 10 works comprising of approved Buildings works under 2022-23 Sate fund **4202-01-201-1-08-132 and 4202-01-201-1-07-139** Toilet Construction, 2024-25 State Fund **4202-01-201-1-08-423** Classroom Construction, 2024-25 State Fund **4202-01-201-1-08-423** Toilet Construction and 2024-25 CM Special Grants for Temple Renovation through KPPP portal.

Indent No.1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17621. 2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17618. 3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17611. 4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17612. 5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17607. 6.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17602. 7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17597. 8.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT16871. 9.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17495. 10. RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT17494

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **11-08-2025 at 4.30 PM** by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **28-07-2025 to 11-08-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **12-08-2025 at 5.30 PM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/308/KSMCA/2025-26

Drug menace: 'Siddaramaiah should resign'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP Yuva Morcha has demanded that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G. Parameshwara tender their resignation, owning moral responsibility, with respect to the Mumbai police detecting a drugs manufacturing unit in the Chief Minister's home district of Mysuru.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, BJP Yuva Morcha State president and MLA Dhiraj Muniraju said the morcha will stage a protest in Mysuru on Wednesday against the district administration for the alleged failure to crack down on the unit.

He urged the government to act sternly against the drugs network and also demanded action against those officials backing the network.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In continuation of my earlier Public Notice dated 18.07.2025 in **The Hindu and Udayavani, Bangalore Edition** this continuation Public Notice is issued on behalf of my client **Parvathamma**. She had lost the **Original Release Deed dated 03.03.2020** executed by **Siddagangamma, Manjunatha and Siddanarasimha.N** in favour of **Chandranarasimha** and the same has been registered as document No. **10475/2019-20 of Book I, Stored in CD No. KEND1013,** in the office of the Sub Registrar Kengeri, Bangalore with respect to the Schedule property, on 01.07.2024. My client had given E Complaint in Lost Report **No. 1701426/2025 dated 14.07.2025.** If any body found the above said Release deed may kindly handover the same to the under signed and they will be suitably rewarded.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

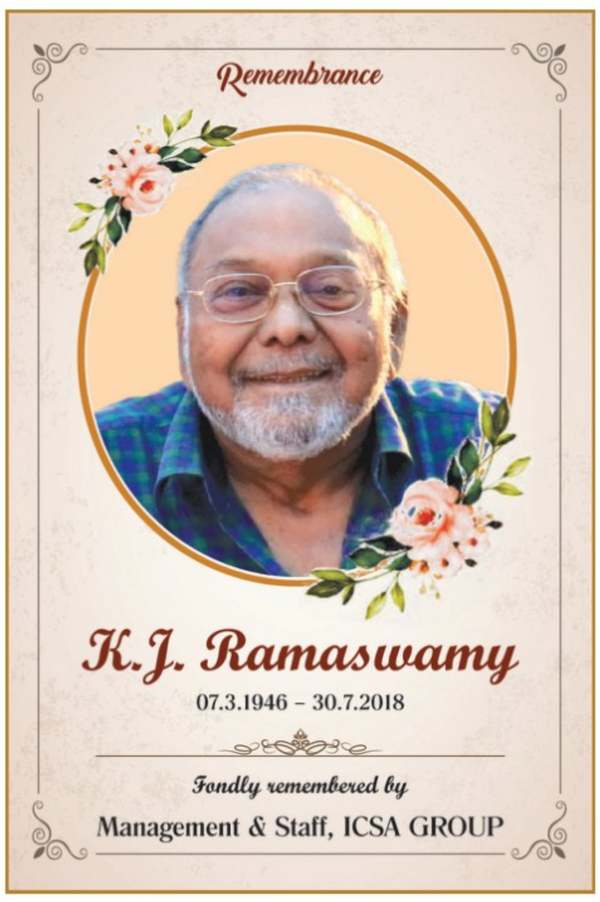
All that piece and parcel of Site No.577, situated at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in 7th Block 'B' Sector, formed in Sy. No.212 of Kommaghatta Village, Layout formed by BDA, Bangalore, measuring East to West 15.00 meters and North to South 23.10 + 22.60/2 meters in all measuring 342.75 Sq. meter and bounded on:

East by : Property No. 578
West by : Property No. 576
North by : Road
South by : Property No. 584 and 585

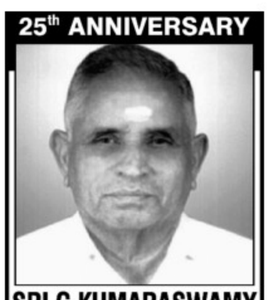
G. NARAYANA HEBBAR
Advocate
No. 38/15, Ground Floor, W.A.T. Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore- 560004.
Phone: 8073573477
Bangalore Date: 29/07/2025

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



SRI.G.KUMARASWAMY
(Retd. IOW, Southern Railway)
DOB : 25-08-1931 DOD : 30-07-2000

சிறுமளஞ்சி முன்சீப் குடும்பத்தின் தவப்புதல்வனே
புண்ணிய நம்பி நதிக்கரையில் வளர்ந்தவனே
ஆசைகளை துறந்து அறநெறியில் வாழ்ந்தவனே
ஆழ அமாவாசையில் மறைந்து அருள்மோட்சம் அடைந்தவனே
எங்களின் நினைவுகளில் நீங்காது நிலைத்திருப்பவனே
எந்நாளும் உன்னாசிபோடு எம்பணி தொடரும்.

குடும்பத்தினர்

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Outrage over arrest of nuns forces BJP on the defensive

Protests roil Kerala for third consecutive day; Church leaders have announced a silent march to Raj Bhavan today; State BJP chief disavows Bajrang Dal's claim on proselytization and trafficking

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Bipartisan protests over the controversial arrest of two Keralite nuns at the Durg railway station in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Chhattisgarh last Friday have roiled Kerala for the third consecutive day on Tuesday.

The Chhattisgarh police had arrested the nuns after Bajrang Dal workers mobbed them on the charge of spiriting out three women, including an adivasi, to Agra, allegedly for "coerced conversion to Christianity".

Church leaders and party workers across the political aisle staged protestsacross Kerala. The protests also radiated out to Chhattisgarh and New Delhi.

Mounting anger: A protest rally by the Thrissur Archdiocese, against the arrest of nuns in Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday. K.K NAJEEB

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) and United Democratic Front (UDF) delegations, led by their respective Lok Sabha members from New Delhi, demonstrated outside the Durg Central prison, demanding justice for the nuns, Vandana Francis and Preeta Mary of the order of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI). They hail from Ernakulam and Kannur respectively.

'Agenda of Sangh Parivar'

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan portrayed the arrests as a manifestation of the Sangh Parivar's agenda to relegate minorities, including Christians and Muslims, as subaltern citizens in a prospective Hindu majoritarian State. Church leaders have announced a silent protest march to the Kerala Raj Bhavan on Wednesday.

Seemingly stung by widespread criticism and chary of losing the ground, the party believed it had gained among Christians in the State, the BJP Kerala president, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, disavowed the Bajrang Dal's accusation that the nuns were human traffickers and proselytisers.

Mr. Chandrasekhar said the organisation did not bear the BJP's imprimatur and the law should take them to task for their alleged transgressions. He added that a BJP delegation from Kerala was in Durg to secure the early release of the nuns.

Poddar Plumbing to boost total investment in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Poddar Plumbing System, engaged in the manufacturing of CPVC and UPVC pipes, has proposed to enhance its total investment in Karnataka to ₹758 crore, up from the earlier ₹492 crore.

According to M.B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Poddar Plumbing System, which has been allotted 33 acres of land in the Vemagal Industrial Area (Phase-2), is working towards operationalising its plant by August 2026.

Mr. Patil, after a meeting with Deepak Poddar, managing director, and Varun Poddar, director of the company, on Tuesday stated that the project was expected to create 3,000 direct and 9,000 indirect jobs.

Of the 33 acres allotted in Vemagal, 28 acres have already been handed over to the company, and the remaining five would be transferred shortly, he informed.

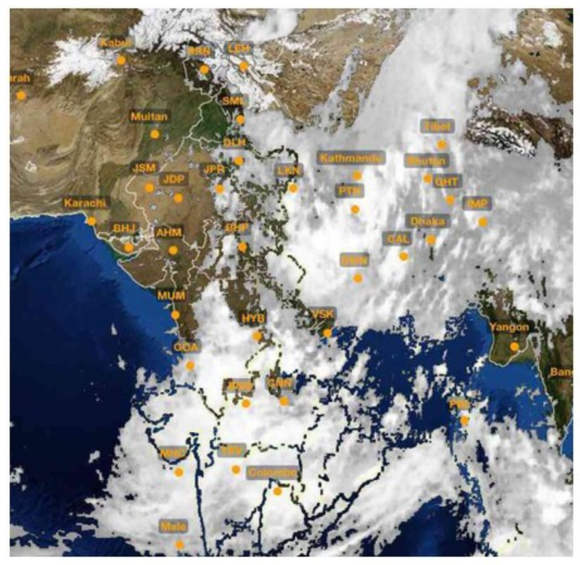
The company plans to invest ₹93 crore for land acquisition, ₹593 crore for industrial machinery and equipment, and ₹87 crore towards GST on capital expenditure.

Construction and installation of machinery have already commenced at the Vemagal site. Once the Vemagal plant is operational, the company is keen to set up a new unit in Vijayapura district, for which a separate plan is currently under preparation, as per the Minister.

The Vemagal facility would manufacture a diverse range of high-quality PVC pipes and fittings, including CPVC and UPVC pipes and industrial pipes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4	33.5	25.8	Kozhikode	—	33.3	24.6
Ahmedabad	41	29.6	25.8	Kurnool	—	32.5	24.2
Aizawl	—	34.0	21.6	Lucknow	5	33.4	26.2
Allahabad	—	34.2	27.0	Madurai	—	41.2	25.6
Bengaluru	0.4	27.0	19.3	Mangaluru	3	29.4	23.9
Bhopal	72	25.5	23.8	Mumbai	0.7	29.6	26.6
Bhubaneswar	37.4	30.7	26.7	Mysuru	1.5	27.0	19.2
Chandigarh	2	29.5	26.1	New Delhi	0.8	29.1	26.8
Chennai	—	37.1	27.4	Patna	175	30.3	25.7
Coimbatore	—	34.1	22.0	Port Blair	2	31.0	26.4
Dehradun	3	27.5	23.5	Puducherry	—	37.2	27.0
Gangtok	123	21.1	18.2	Pune	2.2	29.3	23.5
Goa	2	30.4	24.0	Raipur	1.6	25.5	24.2
Guwahati	8	35.5	26.6	Ranchi	17	27.4	22.6
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	0.3	27.0	18.0
Hyderabad	—	30.5	22.8	Shimla	18	20.2	17.6
Imphal	—	30.4	25.1	Srinagar	—	34.0	21.7
Jaipur	75	34.2	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	23.7
Kochi	—	30.8	23.8	Tiruchi	—	38.3	27.6
Kohima	6.5	24.0	20.7	Vijayawada	—	35.3	27.8
Kolkata	51	31.2	25.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.9	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	..85	26	 57	83	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..10	33	 29	...121	.....
Chennai	...4	..10	25	 38	...124	.....
Delhi	...8	..23	28	 69	...130	.....
Hyderabad	.37	..18	40	 76	93	.....
Kolkata	.12	..92	27	 36	44	.....
Lucknow	.42	..12	15	 66	56	.....
Mumbai	...5	..17	24	 89	...119	.....
Pune	..—	..46	72	 29	53	.....
Visakhapatnam	.35	..53	12	 52	...101	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 269 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Panel discussion series to explore Coimbatore's growth potential

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0, a series of panel discussions that will be presented by G Square and powered by The Hindu Group, will be held in three cities starting with Chennai on July 31. The discussions will be on "Reimagining Growth in Coimbatore and Beyond".

The event in Chennai on Thursday will have deliberations on "Coimbatore in Focus - The Smart Investment Corridor".

As Tamil Nadu marches toward its ambitious vision of becoming a $1 trillion economy, Coimbatore is a pivotal city shaping the next wave of urban transformation and future-ready investments.

With a unique blend of industrial legacy, emerging innovation hubs, and a growing appetite for lifestyle-driven infrastructure, Coimbatore is fast becoming a beacon for long-term value creation.

Investment destination

This edition of Coimbatore Unlimited will focus on how the city is evolving as a preferred destination for intelligent investments across technology, mobility, commercial, and residential infrastructure.

The event will explore the city's investment readiness, growth potential, and how policy, innovation, and private enterprises are coming together to reimagine urban expansion. Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0 will bring together some of the country's sharpest business minds, industry leaders, and real estate experts for high-impact discussions.

The panel discussion on July 31 will be moderated by chartered accountant G. Karthikeyan, who is the founder of the Startup Academy and former president of TiE Coimbatore.

The panellists will be P. Sivakumar, Global Business Head, G Square Group; Naved Narayan, Vice-President - Mobility Solutions and R&D Centre Head - Coimbatore of Bosch Global Software Technologies; Susil S. Dungarwal, Chief Mall Mechanic, Beyond Squarefeet, and Gururaja S.J., Senior Director, Co Head, Office Leasing Advisory, JLL India.

The panel discussion will be held at Taj Connemara, Chennai, on Thursday, July 31, 2025 from 6:30 pm. Entry is by invitation only.

Registrations can be done at newsth.live/GUNLCB2025 or by scanning the QR code.

INBRIEF

Producer booked for 'forging rights' of *Action Hero Biju 2*

The Kerala Police have registered a case against film producer P.S. Shamnas on a plea by actor Nivin Pauly that the former allegedly forged the actor's signature to appropriate the rights of the forthcoming Malayalam movie *Action Hero Biju 2*. Abrid Shine is the director of the movie. According to the FIR, an agreement was signed by Mr. Pauly, Mr. Shine and Mr. Shamnas, who owns the film production firm Indian Movie Makers, to co-produce the movie. With the registration of the case, the film chamber is also likely to initiate action against Mr. Shamnas.

Kannur jailbreak: DIG report flags 'grave' security lapses at Central jail

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A probe by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons (North Zone) has confirmed grave lapses and dereliction of duty by officials at the Kannur Central Jail in connection with the sensational escape of life sentence convict Govindachamy on July 25.

The findings submitted by DIG V. Jayakumar to Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Balaram Kumar Upadhyay underline systematic failures in surveillance, staffing, and prison infrastructure in the jail. The report states that the escape was made possible by "unnoticed moments" during a critical four-hour window from 1.15 a.m. to 5 a.m. and it revealed a "breakdown in prison oversight."

The report flags systematic failures in surveillance, staffing, and prison infrastructure in the Kannur Central jail. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The DIG also flagged the leaking of CCTV footage showing the escape as a serious breach of security, calling for a separate investigation. "If CCTV surveillance had functioned properly, the jailbreak could have been thwarted," the report notes.

The electric fencing at the prison, meant to deter such breakouts, has not been functioning for nearly three years. The issue stems from expired annual maintenance contracts (AMC) and persistent delays by implementing agencies, in preparing repair estimates.

The report points out acute staff shortage in the prison. Against a sanctioned strength of 150 assistant prison officers, only 106 are in place, with vacancies even at the Deputy Prison Officer level.

The report further says the Central Jail, meant to house 943 inmates, is overcrowded with around 1,200 prisoners. "It is a matter of great concern that 100 people are living in a place where 66 prisoners are supposed to stay in the high-security block 10."

HYDRAA officials reclaim over 9 acres of Musi river bed

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has cracked its whip against the illegal encroachments into the Musi river bed. On Tuesday, its teams swooped down on several establishments functioning after filling up the river bed, obstructing the flow.

Several encroachments starting from Chaderghat bridge up to the old Osmania General Hospital have been cleared up, majority of which were being used as parking for heavy vehicles including district buses. The river was being filled up and levelled before temporary sheds were constructed and leased out. A statement from the HYDRAA identified the encroachers as Tikaram Singh, Poonamchand Yadav, and Jayakrishna who have encroached upon 9.62 acres of river bed among themselves. There was also a nursery being run from the location.

The statement said cases had been slapped against the encroachers earlier, after High Court directions, yet there was no use. About 20 metres of the river was filled with soil and debris to bring it on level with the road.

IT/ITeS union cheers Karnataka govt. move to scrap proposal on increasing work hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With reports of the Karnataka government deciding to scrap the proposal to increase working hours, the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) called it an accomplishment of the months-long campaigns IT and ITeS employees have been organising across the State.

"Over the past one-and-a-half months, the KITU has organised widespread protests and continuous campaigns against the proposed Bill – in IT parks, on the streets, and in front of IT companies – drawing massive participation from employees. This relentless struggle compelled the Karnataka government to retreat from its attempt to extend working hours in the sector. In a meeting with the KITU office-bearers, Additional Labour Commissioner G. Manjunath communicated the decision to scrap the proposed amendment," said a communique from Suhas Adiga, general secretary, KITU.

A file photo of the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees' Union members during a protest in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

The union members visited the Additional Labour Commissioner's office on Tuesday to register their concerns about a recent layoff announcement by TCS. According to them, Mr. Manjunath communicated the decision during the visit.

Reports had earlier emerged that the State government has decided to reject the Centre's proposal to amend the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act of 1961 and increase working hours to nine to 10 hours a day.

When contacted by *The Hindu*, Mr. Manjunath noted that he was unaware whether the department Secretary had sent the email to the Centre. "If the State government has made the decision and the communication is going from the Secretary, the matter will end there. The Central government cannot insist on the State when it comes to matters related to labour," he said.

Insurance can improve outcome of cataract surgery among elderly: study

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

Insurance enhances the chance of an elderly patient going home with 'good' uncorrected vision after a cataract surgery, a study has found.

Recently, researchers from L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) checked how often elderly persons used insurance when they needed cataract surgery. The findings were published in the August edition of *The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia*.

The researchers analysed data from 38,387 surgeries. They graded uncorrected visual acuity three to six weeks after surgery as "good", "normal" or "poor" following World Health Organisation standards.

Upon analysing the data, the researchers found that insurance cover was rare and dropped with age. Only 16% of all patients used any insurance. The uptake slid from 17.5% in the 70-74 years band to under 10% after age 85. The public schemes were stuck at 3-4% in every age band.

According to the study, after the national launch of the Ayushman Bharat programme and other State schemes ramped up in 2018, overall coverage for cataract surgery jumped to 20.6%, nearly twice the 10.7% in 2011-2017. According to the team, this policy shift was the single strongest predictor of anyone having insurance.

Only 16% of all senior citizens seeking cataract surgery at LVPEI centres used insurance.

They also reported that elderly men insured themselves 19% of the time versus only 12% for women. Similarly, people from rural districts were less likely to be covered than residents of metros and that uptake rose steadily with socioeconomic class.

Uninsured patients had surgery a median six days after advice. Those with private insurance waited 11 days and those on government schemes endured an 18-day median delay, due to the paperwork and approval time. However, after controlling for every other factor, having any insurance made a patient 38% more likely to end up with "good" uncorrected vision.

In sum, cataract surgery was widely available yet the elders who needed it most often lacked insurance and were more likely to come out with worse eyesight.

Interrupted growth

Industrial growth is still tied to government spends on infrastructure

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the nation's monthly barometer of goods output, revealed a 10-month low growth rate in June, at 1.5%, largely due to the sharp contraction in mining activity, by -8.7% (10.3% in June 2024), and electricity output, by -2.6% (8.6% in June 2024). The early onset of the southwest monsoon, with its erratic and uneven distribution, led to water logging in large parts of the mining belts in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal, hampering a key economic activity. Ranchi's regional meteorological office has said that Jharkhand recorded 504.8 mm (against a normal of 307 mm) between June 1 and July 12 – but five districts were categorised as rain deficient. The resultant damage to the power distribution infrastructure and disruptions to supply chains may have contributed to the sluggish growth in industrial output at 3.9% in June, up from 3.5% a year ago. This in turn, is likely to have led to subdued power demand. While mining and power production collectively make up for almost a quarter (22.3%) of the IIP's weightage, the rest is apportioned for manufacturing activities. The robust growth in capital (3.5%), intermediate (5.5%) and infrastructure (7.2%) goods output, indicates that much of industrial growth continues to hinge on the government's infrastructure spends.

There has been a general reluctance, both institutionally and in public economic discourse in India, to explicitly correlate disruptions in economic activity with climate-related events, especially in official narratives such as the IIP or GDP data releases. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tend to frame industrial and economic under-performance in terms of 'high base effects; supply chain bottlenecks; input cost fluctuations; global demand softening; and domestic consumption contraction'. Climate-related disruptions, such as in mining belts, are rarely mentioned in IIP or national accounts commentary. Economic data agencies in India have been slow to integrate climate risk frameworks into routine macroeconomic reporting, unlike institutions such as the European Central Bank or the Bank of England which have begun mapping climate risk to output and financial stability. True, climate attribution is complex: linking a specific event such as waterlogging in a coal mine to broader climate change involves scientific rigour and probabilistic modelling. Policymakers often avoid this due to fear of politicising economic data. Indeed, the RBI's Financial Stability Reports now include climate-related risks. But this has not yet filtered into production-side metrics such as the IIP. The time has come for India to make a systemic shift to integrate climate attribution to economic activity.

Deaths in school

Infrastructure of government schools needs urgent attention

On July 25, tragedy awaited students of Classes 6 and 7 at the Piplodi Government School in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district as they assembled for prayer. A part of their school building gave way leading to the deaths of seven and injuries to several others. Most of the students were from tribal communities. The school is in the southeastern part of the State bordering Madhya Pradesh. There was a similar incident the next day in Nagaur district but the school was closed being a holiday. There has been much public anger in the State over the incidents which, quite rightly, have thrown the spotlight on the state of government schools. As in UDISE 2023-24 data, there are more than 70,000 government schools in Rajasthan serving nearly 84 lakh students, especially from the poorer and marginalised sections. Of these, some 8,000 schools have been estimated by the Education Department to be in a poor condition. The Jhalawar school was not among the schools identified as being in a poor state, indicating the extent of the problems. Some ₹650 crore had been allocated in the past two State budgets for boosting the infrastructure but inefficiencies in government have ensured that the measures did not make much difference. Fixing the infrastructure of government schools should be a priority for the State's Bharatiya Janata Party government.

The tragedy in Rajasthan should serve as a wake-up call across India, given the current policy defocus on government-owned education institutions. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 had called for an immediate increase in spending on education, from some 4.6% of GDP to 6%, identifying one-time spends on infrastructure as the lead priority besides identifying other sectors for a boost in support. Five years into the NEP, there is little to suggest that this has been a focus area for governments, Union or State. Policy thrusts have been more towards reducing government support, self-financing, and encouraging private sector contribution. While these may be applicable to higher education, basic school education is a primary duty of the government – as it is across the world including in the most developed nations. Setting up model schools and funding them to serve as exemplars cannot be at the cost of mass school education. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy has been identified as a critical area for boosting workforce productivity and reaping the demographic dividend that will soon run its course as India's population ages. But the discourse on pathways towards achieving them is more on pedagogy, non-formal teaching and so on than the essentials – an infrastructure boost and teacher recruitment and training.

Bihar's dark side — the hub of girl child trafficking

Bhuwan Ribhu

is a child rights activist and the Founder of Just Rights for Children

She left Chhattisgarh with a small bag and a dream. A man had convinced her family that she would be trained as a dancer, earn well and support them. Her parents, who were desperate and worn down by years of poverty, let her go. By the time she was found in Bihar, she was not the same girl. She had been broken by control, violence and rape. She was 14. Her story is not rare.

Until June this year, the Bihar police rescued 271 girls in the State – 153 of them trafficked into orchestras, the remaining 118 forced into the flesh trade. In Saran district, the number of girls rescued from these 'dance troupes' since January is 162. Between March and June this year, the Just Rights for Children (JRC) partners, working alongside district police forces, rescued 116 girls from orchestra groups.

The conditions in which these girls, stripped of dignity and brutalised into submission, were found were appalling – overcrowded, unhygienic rooms. They were presented on stage as performers, but in reality, they were victims of trafficking and sexual abuse.

Human trafficking is among the largest organised crimes globally. It inflicts severe physical, psychological and economic harm on individuals of all ages, but women and children are the most vulnerable. Once they are pulled in, getting out is almost impossible. Nearly 138 million children were engaged in child labour in 2024, including around 54 million in hazardous work, according to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.

Bihar as a trafficking destination

Bihar's emergence as one of India's most active destinations for trafficking is not incidental. At the heart of this crisis lies a complete absence of regulatory oversight and social acceptance for girls being commodified. Geography and poverty deepen this vulnerability. The State's porous border with Nepal and seamless railway connectivity to trafficking-prone States such as West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Uttar Pradesh facilitate trafficking flows through Bihar.

In States such as West Bengal, where music and dance are integral to cultural identity, parents encourage their daughters to pursue the arts. These aspirations are preyed upon by traffickers who promise good money and even stardom. False promises of love, marriage or employment are also used to lure girls. In districts such as Saran, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Rohtas and West Champaran – the 'orchestra belt' – girls, some as young as 12, are being sold to orchestras for as little a sum as ₹10,000. They are forced to wear inappropriate clothing and dance to vulgar songs before inebriated men. The girls are punished if they refuse and raped if they resist.

> The State must act against the system of 'dance troupes' and 'orchestras' that fuel trafficking, which is also made worse by an absence of regulatory oversight, geography and poverty

How the system fails children

According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, 2,878 children were trafficked in 2022, including 1,059 girls. This is a figure that barely scratches the surface. Many cases never reach a police station because families are either complicit or fear to speak. The laws are not inadequate, but in fact, comprehensive. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita criminalise child labour, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

But conviction rates remain abysmal. Most cases are filed as kidnappings or missing person reports. Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) are under-resourced. Investigations that concern multiple States often collapse due to jurisdictional confusion and bureaucratic delay. When girls are rescued, many are sent right back to the same families that sold them.

Despite rescue after rescue, orchestras in Bihar continue to operate with impunity. Just Rights for Children, a network of over 250 NGOs working to end violence against children, approached the Patna High Court seeking urgent prohibitory orders against orchestras. The petition calls for an immediate ban on the employment of minors in orchestras.

In response, the High Court directed the Bihar government to act without delay, recognising the trafficking and exploitation of children in orchestras to be a "serious issue". Such an acknowledgement must translate into protection at every stage of the trafficking chain.

Prevention must begin where trafficking begins. Schools must monitor attendance. When a child goes missing for weeks, it must trigger alerts and reports. Panchayats must maintain migratory registers. When children disappear, someone in the village always knows and that someone must be required to act. Parents should be made aware of what might happen to their daughters.

Transport vigilance must be ramped up. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been monitoring vulnerable corridors and conducting awareness drives at railway stations. This model must extend to inter-State bus routes, local terminals and private carriers. Transport departments must train their staff to identify signs of trafficking.

AHTUs need full-time officers trained to coordinate measures across borders, track networks and follow a case from rescue to prosecution. They should be held accountable.

There should be an immediate and absolute prohibition on the employment of minors in orchestras. These groups must be identified, mapped and regulated. Premises where girls are confined must be sealed. Owners, landlords and organisers must be prosecuted and their assets must be attached. The Labour Department must be mandated to inspect, report and act. Prosecution must be time-bound and rehabilitation must be long-term and state-supervised. Children must not be sent back to the environments that enabled their exploitation. Victim compensation schemes must be enforced rigorously.

Prevention is protection. Prosecution is protection. Prosecution is prevention. Trafficking is not the failure of a few systems. It is the collapse of many. Laws and enforcement are only one part of the solution. Ending exploitation is possible through prosecution.

The Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change (C-Lab) recently released a report, 'Building the Case for Zero: How Prosecution Acts as the Tipping Point to End Child Labour - The Case from India', that drew data from 24 States. It showed that prosecution is key to securing justice. Along with law enforcement, the NGO network rescued 53,651 children from trafficking and kidnapping (in 27,320 raids), pursuing legal action in every case. Nearly 90% of these children were trapped in the worst forms of child labour.

A strategy rooted in prevention

To succeed, we need a strategy rooted in prevention, and we need to call it PICKET. First, it begins with 'Policy' – strong and clear policies that prohibit child labour and exploitation. Second, 'Institutions' must be required to monitor, prosecute and rehabilitate. Third, the 'Convergence' of agencies, digital infrastructure and survivor-centred response is essential to combat trafficking. Fourth, 'Knowledge' is key where community awareness and intelligence gathering are crucial. The insights of survivors are among the most powerful tools we have to dismantle trafficking networks. Fifth, 'Economically', trafficking must be made unviable. And, sixth, 'Technology' must be used to track traffickers, build databases, generate heat maps and predict movement patterns. None of this will work unless States share data, digitise case records and cooperate.

Justice is not punishment, but it is prevention before harm. The only way to prevent the next girl from being trafficked is to dismantle the system that allows it. We have the tools. We have the laws. All that remains is the will. The longer we wait, the more we lose.

Adopt formalisation to power productivity growth

Irfan Ahmad Sofi

is In-charge Head, Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir

In recent decades, India's formal manufacturing sector has witnessed a significant negative change in its employment structure. According to the Annual Surveys of Industries (ASI), the share of contract labour in the manufacturing workforce doubled from 20% in 1999-2000 to 40.7% in 2022-23, cutting across all industries. The growing trend towards informalisation within the formal sector has been widely written about in academic and policy circles. Our study, based on plant-level ASI longitudinal data (1999-2000 to 2018-19) at an all-India level, reveals that contractualisation is detrimental to productivity when misused, highlighting the need to promote formalisation to sustain long-term productivity growth.

Plight of contract workers

The shift towards contractualisation is often viewed as a strategy to enhance operational flexibility and access specialised skills as and when required. However, examination of the plight of contract workers suggests that cost avoidance, rather than genuine labour flexibility or skills, is a major factor driving their growing use. Contract workers, typically hired through third-party contractors, are excluded from core labour laws under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, which governs layoffs, retrenchments, and safeguards against arbitrary dismissals. Consequently, their bargaining power remains weak, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

The wage payments of contract workers in 2018-19 were 14.47% lower than their regular counterparts. The unfavourable wage differentials against them were more pronounced in large enterprises (31%), followed by medium and small enterprises (23% and 12%, respectively). Furthermore, if we consider the difference in the overall labour cost for employers on contract and regular workers, the disparities look even starker. The average daily labour cost to the employer for contract workers was 24% lower when compared to regular workers. The labour costs on contract workers were less than 50% of that on regular workers, in at least nine three-digit level industries. In some industries, labour-cost gaps were as high as 78% to 85%, reflecting the severe level of exploitation that contract workers face.

> Contractualisation in India's formal manufacturing is linked more to cost avoidance than it being a focus on genuine labour flexibility or skills

Impact on productivity

Undoubtedly, contract workers can bring job-specific skills and serve as a buffer, enabling firms to respond swiftly to market fluctuations. However, contractual employment, particularly when mediated through third-party contractors for the short term, can suffer from principal-agent problem, i.e., the misalignment of long-term interests between employers and contractors. This can lead to moral hazard issues, such as an increased likelihood of worker shirking. Moreover, short-term employment contracts can create instability in the workforce due to high labour turnover, discouraging investments in on-the-job training and innovation, stifling productivity growth in the long run.

Our analysis of real net value added per worker, a standard measure of labour productivity, shows that contract labour-intensive (CLI) enterprises have, on an average, 31% lower labour productivity when compared to regular labour-intensive (RLI) enterprises. The labour productivity gap remains higher especially in small formal enterprises with less than 100 workers (36%), followed by medium-sized enterprises with 100-300 workers (23%). The unfavourable productivity gap for CLI enterprises further widens to 42% in labour-intensive enterprises. These differentials remain significant even after controlling for firm-specific and state-specific factors that could influence labour productivity.

The negative productivity differentials observed in relatively small, medium, and labour-intensive CLI enterprises may be attributed to their higher propensity to employ contract labour as a cost-cutting measure or as a means to circumvent regulations. These are practices that ultimately prove counterproductive in the long run.

However, labour productivity was 5% higher in high-skill CLI enterprises when compared to their low-skill counterparts, with the productivity advantage increasing significantly to 20% in large high-skill CLI enterprises. Similarly, large-size capital-intensive CLI enterprises recorded a 17% gain in labour productivity. However, such types of enterprises account for only about 20% of the total formal manufacturing. The remaining 80% of the enterprises were adversely affected by contractualisation.

Policy suggestions

The central government, in 2020, introduced a labour code on industrial relations, which aims to provide greater flexibility in hiring and firing. The code allows firms to hire non-regular workers on fixed-term contracts directly without third party contractors, though it also seeks to curb the exploitation of non-permanent workers by mandating the provision of basic statutory employment benefits. However, as the labour code awaits implementation, labour unions warn that the increased flexibility in hiring non-regular workers could accelerate informalisation and further erode quality of jobs in the formal sector.

Policymakers can incentivise firms to adopt reasonably longer fixed-term contracts by offering concessions in social security contributions or subsidised access to government skilling programmes. This could enhance workforce stability and support skill accumulation, while also assuaging labour union fears about the potential rise in the precarious employment.

Similarly, the Central government in 2016 implemented the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) to incentivise job creation in the formal sector by bearing employer's contribution (12%) to Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees' Provident Fund (EPF). Though over one crore employees benefited from the scheme, it was discontinued in March 2022. Reviving and extending support under the PMRPY could help curb the misuse of contract labour and promote formalisation in the manufacturing sector.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Ayurveda

We write this letter as the President and the General Secretary, respectively, of the Ayurveda Medical Association of India (AMAI). While the question of "integration" and the extent of clinical practice by practitioners of Ayurveda is open for public and policy-level discourse, the article (Editorial page, July 29) unfairly singles out a globally recognised and government-approved system of medicine. It selectively quotes legal provisions, ignoring judicial pronouncements and the evolving nature of India's medical pluralism. Under Indian law, the terms doctor, vaidya, and hakim are considered synonymous when it comes to legitimate and recognised systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani. This recognition has been established through court rulings and government notifications, especially after the enactment of The Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, and policies supporting AYUSH. The article fails to acknowledge the acceptance Ayurveda enjoys today, as a scientific and evidence-based holistic medical system.

Dr. K.S. Vishnu Namboothiri, Dr. P.K. Haridas,
Thiruvananthapuram

Corrections & Clarifications

The existing electoral roll was published in Bihar on January 7, 2025, and not 2015 as mentioned in a report, "Focus on inclusion, not exclusion, SC tells EC" (News page, July 29, 2025).

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

New queen

That Divya Deshmukh is the new chess queen is wonderful news. Parents and teachers need to identify children with an interest in chess.

Gudipati Anirudh,
Secunderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Why the Gini Index is wrong about India

Prachi Dutta

Lawyer qualified to practice law in New York and India. She advises start ups, funds and companies on corporate, investment and regulatory related matters. She is based in New Delhi

The Gini Index ranked India among the world's most equal societies, by giving the country a score of 25.5. This places India in a 'moderately low' inequality category. While this may be cause for celebration, the lived reality in India paints a very different picture. Inequalities, lived and those captured in statistics, permeate into everyday life in urban and rural India. The question that therefore arises is, on what basis can India be considered one of the world's most equal societies? While there is sufficient critique on the flawed methodology used in the Gini Index, this article highlights the general state of inequality that plagues India. While gender, economic, health, educational, and social inequalities have always been endemic to India, with technology and a modern ways of life, new forms of inequality such as digital and banking inequality have arisen.

Forms of inequalities

One of the fundamental forms of inequality is wealth inequality. A ride through any busy street in urban India in a luxury car which costs an average of ₹30 lakh, driven by a chauffeur who earns and supports a family on approximately ₹3 lakh per year, will highlight the stark wealth inequality that exists. Statistics also supports this reality. According to a study titled 'Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj', in 2022-23, 22.6% of the national income went to just the top 1% of the population. Further, the study mentions that data on wealth inequality is challenging to capture because of the large-scale prevalence of informal employment, low-income levels, and high thresholds for non-taxable incomes, which means that data on tax pertains to less than 10% of the adult population. The reason for the lack of data itself is indicative of inherent wealth inequality, as a large part of the population has to rely on the informal sector for employment, earning significantly less than those employed in the formal sector.

Gender inequality is another fundamental form of inequality in India. Women have historically been marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio. The number is starker at senior and middle management levels where women accounted for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024. While India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, women-run start-ups stand at only 7.5% of all active startups in the country. Social norms aggravate gender inequality in terms of spending family resources on the girl child, and in matters of inheritance.

With rapid development of technology, access to digital technology is crucial to broadly navigate through modern day life such as easily accessing formal banking channels. While India has made commendable progress in providing access to the Internet to a large part of the population, a careful analysis of the numbers points to a severe digital divide. Lack of access to the Internet and to digital technology exacerbates the digital divide, leading to lack of opportunities for a certain demography.

For instance, only 52.7% schools have functional computers, and Internet is accessible in only 53.9% of schools across India. This contributes to the digital divide because only students from a certain socio-economic background, who have access to schools with functional computers and the Internet, will be adept in the use of technology and computers, a critical skill in today's times.

Access to quality higher education and even basic entry-level jobs are difficult for students left behind. They are then pushed into employment that requires lower skills. This digital divide will continue to perpetuate the cycle of inequality at the household level.

Other forms of digital technology also contribute towards fuelling educational inequality. For instance, combined access to broadband within households, encompassing both urban and rural areas, stands at 41.8%. This deepens educational inequality because when education becomes virtual, which is a routine occurrence in New Delhi when schools are closed during November and December because of severe air pollution, only those students in households with access to a broadband system and digital technology can continue with their education.

Inequality across realms

Inequality in one realm often permeates into other realms. For instance, digital inequality severely affects the lower income demography. However, overall, digital inequality affects women more than men. For example, only 25% of women in rural India have access to the Internet, compared to 49% of men in rural India. The Internet is a fundamental medium in accessing opportunities and technology such as Internet banking. It guarantees financial freedom and job postings. Lack of access to the Internet disables women from accessing these opportunities that are readily available to male adults, further exacerbating digital and gender inequality.

While we have reasons to pat ourselves on our backs for achieving some amount of equality in the last few years, the methodology to adjudge the ranking by Gini Index, seen along with actual and lived realities, makes one wonder as to how we achieved this ranking. It is only when a large part of the population has access to equal opportunities can we truly be among the world's most equal societies. Until then, as a society and a country, we have a lot of groundwork to cover in bridging all forms of divide.

India has a lot of groundwork to cover in bridging all forms of divides

From glory to decline

Gangaikonda Cholapuram does not need statues; it needs basic infrastructure

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

Pomp and gaiety marked the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, which is organised every year in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, about 105 kilometres from Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu, to mark the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I (1012 to 1044 CE).

The festival, which the DMK government in the State began holding from 2022, became a high-profile event this time thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the valediction ceremony. The festival also coincided with the completion of 1,000 years of the maritime expedition of the Chola emperor to Southeast Asia and the commencement of the construction of the iconic temple.

In his book, *A History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*, historian K.A. Nilakanta Sastri states that Rajendra Chola's empire was "the most extensive and most respected Hindu state of his time." Gangaikonda Cholapuram, established by the Chola ruler, served as the capital of the imperial Cholas for about 250 years (1025 CE-1279 CE). Along with the Brihadeeswara temple in Thanjavur, built by Rajendra Chola's father, Rajaraja Chola I, the temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram was included by UNESCO in 2004 under the category of 'Great Living Chola Temples' and declared a World Heritage Site.

On July 27, Mr. Modi spent about two hours at the temple. Unlike most of his public events, which are characterised by formal speeches and the inauguration of projects and schemes, this event was

different. Wearing a white dhoti, a half-sleeve shirt, and an *angavastram* (upper cloth), the Prime Minister enjoyed devotional renderings by a group of *Oduvars* (hymn singers) and by music director and composer Ilaiyaraaja. In his speech, Mr. Modi praised the contributions of the Cholas and explained how their rule remains an inspiration for modern India.

The Cholas undoubtedly set a benchmark in various aspects of governance. However, their erstwhile capital is today one of the most backward districts of Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur. It is hard to believe that it was once the seat of power of a great empire for 250 years.

"It is all fine for the Prime Minister to announce the installation of statues for the two Chola emperors. But people in the district had expected him to unveil plans for infrastructure development in the region," said N. Dhanapal, a resident of Thirumanur village in Ariyalur district. "We thought he would make a statement on the approval of two long-pending railway projects – from Kumbakonam to Namakkal through Ariyalur and Perambalur, and one connecting Pattukottai, Thanjavur, and Ariyalur. We were disappointed," he added.

A predominantly agrarian district, Ariyalur has cement factories. These were established by large companies given the availability of good quality limestone in the region. After a spell of severe pest attacks about five years ago, farmers virtually stopped raising sugarcane. "The sugar mill that we had barely functions," a resident complained. Though the Small Industries Development Corporation set up an industrial estate at Mallur in the district about 10 years ago, it found few takers.

The district has a fossil tree park and a fossil museum, which are examples of palaeozoology. In fact, the geological community regards the Ariyalur region as important as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, U.S. Yet, the place barely gets any visibility.

In fact, despite being a World Heritage Site for more than 20 years, even the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple does not attract as many international visitors as it should, primarily due to connectivity issues and lack of amenities.

It is not that there have not been efforts made to improve the district. On the eve of the festival, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had announced that the Chola Gangam lake, locally known as the Ponneri lake, would be developed at a cost of ₹12 crore, and that facilities for tourists would be improved at a cost of ₹7.25 crore. He also said that renovation work of channels around the tank and other maintenance works would be undertaken. The State government has also planned to construct a museum, spread over 10 acres, at the cost of ₹22.10 crore.

However, these plans are not enough. What the people of the district, which was the seat of the ancient capital of the Cholas, want today is sustained attention and focus on economic development of the region. That is what finally matters to them.

Free bus schemes help, but rural India pays more to travel

The share of bus expenditure out of total conveyance expenditure is 20.6% in rural India

DATA POINT

Cledwyn Fernandez and Mohd. Tahoor

The latest World Bank report has commended India for pulling 171 million people out of poverty. Using the formulation of $2.15 a day as the poverty line, it has said that extreme poverty fell from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23. However, how has the consumption basket of India changed?

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) provides an understanding of where and how India is consuming. As of 2023-24, the per capita household expenditure was ₹4,122 in rural India, and ₹6,996 in urban India. The total consumption expenditure for a household can be broadly categorised into food and non-food. In 2023-24, food accounted for 47% of expenditure in rural India, and 39% in urban India. When compared to earlier years, the share of food expenditure is lower. It is interesting to understand which non-food items account for a higher share of the consumer's wallet. All expenditures in the story are per capita, unless mentioned otherwise.

Expenditure on conveyance formed the biggest share of non-food expenditure for an average Indian consumer. Conveyance includes bus, metro, flights and other modes. The conveyance expenditure accounts for 14% of total non-food expenditure across rural and urban India. Of these, bus expenditure contributed to 20% of the total conveyance expenditure. Given the lower per capita income in rural India, households are largely reliant on buses as their primary mode of transport.

Across all major States, bus travel accounts for a higher share of conveyance expenditure in rural areas when compared to urban ones. The share of bus expenditure out of total conveyance expenditure is 20.6% in rural India, but only 16.2% in urban India (**Chart 1**). One reason is the availability of other modes of transportation in urban areas. Moreover, there is significant State-wise variation in the share of bus expenditure. For instance, rural households in Tamil Nadu, and Kerala spend 25% of the total conveyance expenditure on bus travel while in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Haryana the spend is less than 20%. Underscoring the importance of bus travel as a mode of transportation, certain State governments have provided free bus services for women. In 2019, Delhi became the first State to offer this. As of 2025, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Punjab and, Jammu & Kashmir are the seven States that offer this for women. However, there is mixed evidence of the impact of the scheme on household consumption expenditure on buses. For Delhi, Karnataka, and Telangana, there has been a decline in bus expenditure in rural and urban areas. However, in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, household bus expenditure has increased from 2022-23 to 2023-24. At an all-India level, while bus expenditure has decreased by 4% in urban India, it has increased by 0.6% in rural India (**Chart 2**). Thus, the effect of the transport policies is less pronounced in rural areas. This data is a wake-up call for policymakers to improve the transportation infrastructure, especially in rural India, and provide greater accessibility and affordability.

Moreover, while one would expect that lower-income households rely more on buses than higher-income households, data suggest the opposite. The share of bus expenditure to conveyance expenditure is greater among higher income households than lower-income households. One possible explanation is that lower-income households are engaged in the agricultural sector, where transportation requirements are minimal. On the contrary, higher-income households might avail bus services more frequently due to work commute. To understand this further, we assess the association between non-agricultural workforce participation and the share of bus expenditure to the total conveyance expenditure in urban India. The analysis suggests that there is no significant association (**Table 3**). Hence, this implies that per-capita bus expenditure is not associated with non-agricultural workforce participation. This tends to suggest that urban households are not using bus services just for labour market opportunities alone – a point that policymakers should take into account.

Policies and infrastructure should be developed to cushion the cost of conveyance expenditure. First, States should transition from Internal Combustion Engine buses to electric buses. This will reduces the cost for the transportation department, leading to lower ticket prices.

Second, the supply of buses should increase. India has only 1.5 lakh buses, with an average of only 17 buses per one lakh people. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recommends 60 buses per one lakh people, yet many cities have fewer than 10. While Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana have approximately 30 buses per one lakh population, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha have fewer than 10.

Third, it is imperative that the quality of buses is improved, alongside better affordability. Reducing the conveyance expenditure for households, will allow them to repurpose this share of expenditure into other categories that will improve the overall quality of livelihood.

Cledwyn Fernandez is a research fellow at The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Mohd. Tahoor was a research intern at ICRIER and is currently a student of Economics at Azim Premji University

Missing the bus?

The data for the charts were sourced from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24

Chart 1: The share of bus expenditure out of the total conveyance expenditure (2023-24), across rural and urban areas, in States offering free bus rides for women

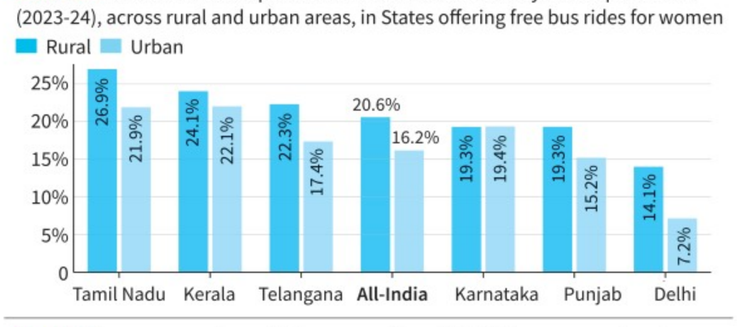


Chart 2: Year-on-year change in bus expenditure (2023-24) across rural and urban areas in States offering free bus travel schemes for women

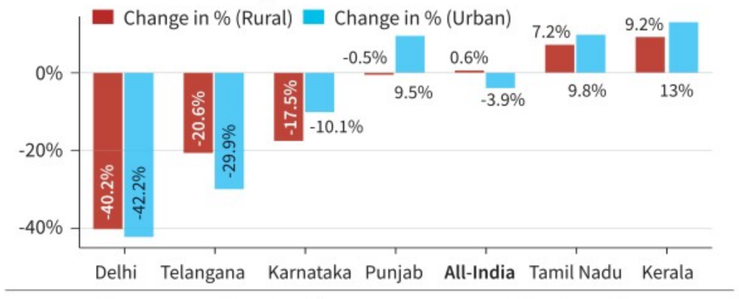


Table 3: The non-agricultural workforce participation and the share of bus expenditure to the total conveyance expenditure in urban India, in select States

	Non-agricultural workforce participation rate (%)	The share of bus to total conveyance expenditure (%)
Three States with the highest non-agricultural workforce participation rate		
Delhi	99	7.1
Kerala	73	22.1
Punjab	72.7	15.2
Three States with the lowest non-agricultural workforce participation rate		
Chhattisgarh	36.1	7.7
Madhya Pradesh	38.4	17.8
Uttar Pradesh	44	14.1

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 30, 1975

What caused poisonous gas in Apollo

Honolulu, July 29: Failure to throw two switches in the final minutes of their mission set off a sequence that resulted in poison gas streaming into the spacecraft of the three Apollo astronauts, space officials said.

Dr. Glynn Lunney, the Technical Director for the Apollo-Soyuz Mission, said that astronauts Stafford, Brand and Slayton failed to throw a switch to start the automatic landing system as the spacecraft fell towards the Pacific Ocean.

"This may have happened as a result of the crew's attention being diverted," said Dr. Lunney. There was an unexplained squeal on communications lines and it might have made the astronauts fail to throw the proper switches.

Moments later the astronauts manually jettisoned a spacecraft apex cover and deployed the parachutes, but did not shut off a small rocket thruster system.

The rocket thrusters fired rapidly in an apparently automatic effort to control the spacecraft's altitude. Then the crew quickly shut down the rocket thrusters.

However, said Dr. Lunney, vapours in the line were discharged and sucked into the cabin through an intake valve.

According to on-board tapes, he said, "there was a fair amount of coughing."

"The crew were recovering from their surprise and they activated the earth landing system," said Dr. Lunney, even though they were suffering from eye irritation and coughing.

The astronauts manually deployed the main parachutes at 9,000 feet, a thousand feet lesser than usual.

The spacecraft splashed down and immediately turned over placing the astronauts upside down and still coughing from the poison vapours.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 30, 1925

Sea bathing club, Madras

A surveyor has, we understand, been deputed by the Revenue Department to measure out the land (near Queen Mary's College), the lease of which had been applied for by the Sea Bathing Club. The premises of the Club will extend 50 feet east, 100 feet west and 150 feet north and south from the foundation stone. The buildings will be very near the high-water mark.

From Page One

3 Pak. terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: Centre

Mr. Shah said that the identity of the terrorists and their involvement was confirmed with the help of ballistic and forensic reports and the testimony of four other witnesses, including two accused, who had given them shelter a day before the attack.

Pakistani voter identity cards and chocolates made in Pakistan were found on the terrorists, establishing they came from Pakistan, he said.

"Two AK-47 rifles and an M4 carbine rifle were recovered from their bodies. The spent cartridges recovered from Baisaran (Pahalgam) meadow were matched with the weapons recovered during Operation Mahadev yesterday," the Minister added. He said that the first information about the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam area was received on May 22.

"On May 22, IB got human intelligence that the presence of terrorists has been tracked in Dachigam. With the help of equipment made by our agencies, communication signals were tracked from May 22 to July 22 and continuous attempts were made to track them. IB and Army set out on foot patrolling to catch the signals, we got the first confirmation on July 22 with the help of sensors. 4 Para unit of the Army, CRPF, and J&K police jawans cornered the terrorists. Five human assets were also sent and we killed the three terrorists who killed the innocent civilians," Mr. Shah said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had earlier arrested two men who provided food and shelter to the terrorists a day before the attack. "NIA has arrested two accused, Bashir and Parvez, who provided them food in their *dhok* (hut), two kilometres away [from Baisaran meadow] on April 21 at 8 p.m. The two were wearing black clothes, they had tea and food, and while leaving, also took some spices from the hut," he said.

Mr. Shah said the NIA interviewed 1,055 people, including all the victims of the terror attack, their family members, pony riders, photographers, and others working nearby. More than 3,000 hours of interview footage has been recorded on video, he added.

Will step in if 'mass exclusion' found: SC

During the hearing, Justice Kant asked the petitioners to wait for the publication of the draft list, saying their apprehensions were at best speculative now. The petitioners had criticised the SIR as "citizenship screening".

Justice Bagchi reasoned that the draft roll would be prepared on the basis of a January 7, 2025, list of voters assembled after a special summary revision of the Bihar electoral roll. An EC affidavit in the top court had stated that voters in the existing January 2025 electoral roll would feature in the draft roll on August 1, provided they submitted their enumeration forms, with or without documents.

"So, this January 2025 list would be the starting point. Your apprehension is that 65 lakh odd voters in the January 2025 list would not feature in the draft list of August 1... However, the EC schedule allows time for persons omitted from the draft roll to apply for corrections. This means that these voters are not new. They would only be seeking correction vis-a-vis the 2025 entry," Justice Bagchi reasoned.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, said electors who were unable to make it to the draft roll had a further period of 31 days, till September 1, to make claims and get corrections done before the final roll came out on September 30.

At this point, Mr. Sibal and Mr. Bhushan said there was a complete lack of information from the EC on whom they had identified as dead or relocated. The details were not available to them.

Justice Bagchi told the petitioners that the draft roll on August 1 would anyway provide the names of those omitted as either dead or shifted permanently. Justice Kant intervened to point out that the EC was a constitutional institution, and the presumption was it would act "perfectly in accordance with the law".

"The moment they deviate, we will definitely intervene... If someone omitted as dead comes and says, 'I am very much alive', we will intervene," Justice Kant assured.

The court fixed the next hearing on August 12 and August 13, indicating the court would primarily deal with issues regarding draft electoral roll.

SC to begin hearing on Presidential Reference

The Bench, including Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and Atul Chandurkar, asked the parties to file their written submissions on or before August 12.

The Union government will be heard on August 19, 20, 21, and 26. The opposing parties will submit their response on August 28, and September 2, 3, and 9. The Union government will then rebut on September 10.

"Timelines must be followed scrupulously," the Chief Justice told the lawyers. The Bench said that no lawyer, except Mr. Venugopal, would be allowed to appear online.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta supported this wholeheartedly, saying that the distinguished counsel was "*sui generis* (unique)".

The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have urged the Court to dismiss the Presidential Reference, arguing it was really an "appeal in disguise".

Manipur preparing for special intensive revision, says Joint CEO

BLO training, meetings with political parties under way; Joint CEO adds no specific timelines have been communicated for SIR in Manipur; Opposition parties, including Congress, criticise exercise as a roundabout way of implementing the NRC

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Extensive exercise: A meeting between election officials and representatives of political parties was held in Imphal on July 25 to discuss the revision of electoral rolls. @CEOMANIPUR/X

Manipur has begun training sessions for booth-level officers (BLOs) and meetings with political parties for a special intensive revision (SIR) of the photo electoral rolls of the State, an exercise that the Election Commission is currently holding in Bihar drawing flak from Opposition parties for allegedly being a roundabout way to a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Election officials in the State said the training and meetings were being conducted as per communication from the EC "both formally and informally".

Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, Ramananda Nongmeikapam told *The Hindu*, "This is in keeping with the SIR preparation under way across several other States. In Bihar, this exercise is already under way. The preparation here is as per the EC's proposal to hold SIR across the country. So far, no communication has been given on specific timelines for this exercise in Manipur."

According to notifications made public by the office of the District Election Officers across Manipur for meetings with political parties, there is a reference to "the ensuing special intensive revision of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 1.1.2026 as the qualifying date". One of these notifications – from Kakching district – said the meeting would be about SIR, house-to-house survey, and rationalisation of polling stations "under Pre-Revision activities as part of the upcoming Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls".

On July 25, at a meeting chaired by the Joint CEO, "The participating parties were sensitised about the EC's proposal to conduct a special intensive revision across the country, aimed at safeguarding the integrity and accuracy of our democratic process," the poll body in the State said.

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president Keisham Meghachandra, who attended the July 25 meeting, told *The Hindu*, "It seemed like through the SIR, they also want to change voting address of internally displaced persons to the relief camp locations where they are temporarily living. This was opposed by us as it would lead the State away from peace."

Training sessions

According to the CEO's official posts on social media, training sessions with BLOs and BLO supervisors and meetings with political parties have been held this month across several Assembly constituencies in the State such as Khangabok, Phungyar, Lamlai, Heirok, Noney, Ukhrul, among others.

The Chief Electoral Officer of Nagaland has also held training sessions in the State this July where "duties of BLOs in special intensive revision" was among the topics for the sessions, according to a public statement issued through the Department of Information and Public Relations of Nagaland.

The training sessions for SIR in Manipur comes even as the State continues to deal with the crisis triggered by the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei community and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo group of communities. Notably, one of the key issues that Meitei civil society organisations and erstwhile Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had blamed for the conflict was alleged "illegal immigration of Kukis" from neighbouring Myanmar.

During the Lok Sabha elections in the State in 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party had included the promise of an NRC as one of its top poll planks during campaigning for the Inner Manipur constituency.

Mr. Meghachandra said, "We made it clear at the July 25 meeting that the process should be fair. There should not be any attempt to add bogus voters either. Even Home Minister Amit Shah and former CM N. Biren Singh have spoken about illegal immigration in the State."

The last Assembly election in Manipur was held in 2022, which saw BJP emerge as the single largest party in the Assembly, with the government being formed with N. Biren Singh as Chief Minister.

Currently, the State is under President's Rule, imposed in February this year, almost two years after the ethnic conflict began in the State.

HC acquits 3 in 2002 riots case, cites lack of evidence

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Nearly two decades after their conviction, the Gujarat High Court has acquitted three men in a 2002 post-Godhra riots case, ruling that the evidence against them was unreliable and insufficient for conviction.

A Bench of Justice Gita Gopi overturned the May 29, 2006, judgment by a fast-track court in Anand, which had sentenced Sachin Patel, Ashok Patel, and Ashok Gupta to five years of rigorous imprisonment.

"The learned trial court judge had erred in the appreciation of the evidence. The conviction was not based on reliable and corroborative evidence. The identification of the accused has not been proved during the trial," the High Court said in its order passed on Monday.

The case related to violence that broke out a day after two coaches of the Sabarmati Express were set on fire at Godhra station on February 27, 2002, killing 59 people and triggering widespread riots in Gujarat.

According to the prosecution, the three appellants were part of a mob that gathered in a locality in Anand, damaged shops, and set some of them on fire, allegedly violating prohibitory orders under Section 135 of the Bombay Police Act.

No decision has been taken to update National Population Register: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Disputed project: Activisits protest against the CAA, NRC and NPR at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in March 2020. SANDEEP SAXENA

The Union government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that no decision had been taken to update the National Population Register (NPR) during the 2027 Census exercise.

The NPR is the first step for the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955. The NPR was first created in 2010 and data were collected simultaneously during the first phase of the 2011 Census – called the House Listing and Housing (HLO) schedule. The NPR database, which has the details of 119 crore residents, was updated in 2015-16.

The Hindu reported on July 9 that during a conference of the Directors of Census Operations held on July 3 and 4, Home Ministry officials informed the participants that no decision had been made regarding update of the NPR.

Responding to a questions by several Lok Sabha members, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, in a written reply, said, "No decision has been taken to update the National Population Register. The intent to conduct Census has been notified. The period of conducting houselisting and housing Census will be notified in due course."

He added that the Government of India had notified its intent to conduct Census in the Gazette on June 16 and the Census would be conducted in two phases – the houselisting and housing Census, where the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected, and the population enumeration phase, where the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be collected.

"In Census, Caste enumeration will also be done," the reply said.

It said that the estimated financial outlay for conducting Census was under finalisation.

Indian officials reach out to post-Assad government in Syria

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

This is India's first outreach to Syria since the fall of Assad, who was ousted in Dec. 2024

Marking a fresh beginning in ties with Damascus in the post-Assad era, India reached out to the Syrian provisional government under the leadership of President Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, this week.

Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary for the West Asia and North Africa division at the External Affairs Ministry, met the Syrian provisional government's Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani on Monday in Damascus, according to officials here. Sources said he was accompanied by several other Indian officials, including the Indian Ambassador to Syria, Irshad Ahmed.

Both teams held "constructive dialogue on issues of mutual interest and explored new avenues to strengthen bilateral ties for the benefit of both nations", Syria's Foreign Ministry said on its official Telegram channel.

This is India's first outreach to Syria since the fall of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who was ousted in December 2024 after a quarter century in power. India had maintained close ties with the Syrian Arab Republic under his rule and that of his father Hafez al-Assad, who was President for three decades, from 1970 onwards.

Since the end of the Assad era though, India has been championing a "Syrian-led" government to resolve the political crisis that has gripped the country.

Medical aid

Apart from his meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Kumar also met Syrian Health Minister Musaab al-Ali. Syria has a large war-affected population in need of urgent medical care and the two sides discussed cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and in the training of medical personnel to help the affected population.

In a post on X, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India had also handed over a "consignment of 5 MT of essential life saving medicines, including anti-cancer, antibiotics and anti-hypertensives to Syria". "India's humanitarian support to the people of Syria continues," he added.

DRDO holds back-to-back Pralay missile test flights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday and Tuesday. These validated its maximum and minimum range capability with pinpoint accuracy.

Pralay is an indigenously developed solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile with advanced guidance and multiple warhead capabilities.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the successful test flights.

ACEnovation invites applications for National Storytelling Championship

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The National Storytelling Championship India 2025, organised by ACEnovation, is inviting participants from ages 3 to over 103, across six categories, to share their stories, whether folk tales, personal anecdotes, or original fiction, in any language. *The Hindu in School* is the event's official media partner.

In alignment with the National Education Policy, which recognises the importance of holistic development, the championship provides a unique platform to enhance narrative abilities and confidently share their voices.

The pan-India event aims to empower storytellers to address social issues, preserve local folklore, and promote cultural diversity.

The registration fee is ₹400 per participant.

The last date to register is August 20. The stories can be submitted in any language. The grand finale will be held at the Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai campus, on October 2. Prizes include a trophy, and cash prizes of ₹25,000 for the junior category, and ₹1,00,00 for the senior category, among others. Visit www.nationalstorytellingchampionship.com for registration, guidelines, and more information. For inquiries, contact admin@acenovation.com, or call +91 8939951230.

The Hindu in School is the media partner, and the organising partners are VIT Chennai, *Amar Chitra Katha*, MCC BOYD Tandon School of Business, The Blu Hornbill Club, and the World Storytelling Championship.

APPEAL

Sivanesh is 13 years old suffering from "Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia". He is advised to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. He is from a very poor family and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowleged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/31523781/7338978027.**
Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Chidambaram gave clean chit to Pakistan: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday accused former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram of giving a clean chit to Pakistan as the latter said there was no evidence that the Pahalgam terrorists came from Pakistan.

In an interview with a media platform, Mr. Chidambaram said: "...they are unwilling to disclose what the NIA has done all these weeks. Have they identified the terrorists?...where they came from? For all we know, they could be home-grown terrorists. Why do you assume that they came from Pakistan? There is no evidence of that."

Mr. Shah said there was evidence that the three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack were Pakistanis because Pakistani voter numbers of two out of three terrorists are available and the chocolates found with them were also made in Pakistan.

"The former Home Minister of the country is giving a clean chit to Pakistan in front of the whole world and by doing so, he is also raising the question that why did we attack Pakistan? He asks for proof but today 140 crore people of the country have come to know about their conspiracy to defend Pakistan," Mr. Shah said.

No world leader asked us to stop operation: Modi

Through Operation Sindoor, India had put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks, PM tells Lok Sabha; air defence has come out with a sterling reputation across the world, he adds

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Hitting back: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a Lok Sabha debate on Tuesday. SANSAD TV/PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that through Operation Sindoor, India had put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks.

"Not a single world leader asked us to stop the operation. Our actions were precise and non-escalatory, just as we had committed," he said in a clear refutation of U.S. claims that it mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

He said this in his intervention during a debate in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor that had followed the terror attack in Pahalgam in J&K that left 26 people dead.

In a speech lasting one hour and 42 minutes, Mr. Modi gave a detailed statement on not just what led to Operation Sindoor and its aftermath but also his communication with U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance.

"Not a single world leader told India to stop its operations. On the night of May 9, the Vice-President of America tried to talk to me – he tried for an hour – but I was in a meeting with officers of the armed forces so I could not pick up his call. Later, I called him back. The Vice-President of America told me on the phone that Pakistan was going to launch a big attack on India. My answer was that if Pakistan has this intention, it will cost them a lot. If Pakistan attacks, we will respond by launching a big attack. This was my answer," he said.

While the government has been maintaining this claim since the ceasefire, the field got murky because of repeated assertions by U.S. President Donald Trump that he had brought about the ceasefire.

The Indian stand, also repeated by Mr. Modi in his speech, was that India's disabling of Pakistani air defence and airbases deep into its hinterlands got that country's Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) to call his Indian counterpart to ask for a ceasefire.

'Halted not ended'

The debate in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor also saw the Prime Minister delineate five new factors that have emerged. He said that India's tough stance on terror, of retaliating, had Pakistan on notice that if it sent terror India's way, it would continue to face Operation Sindoor that had only been halted and not ended. He said that India's air defence had come out of Operation Sindoor with a sterling reputation across the world.

"This is an era of technology-driven war. Pakistan sent across over a 1,000 drones and other missiles on May 9, all of which were brought down by India's air defence," he said, adding that a market for India's defence equipment had expanded to over 100 countries.

He said that his government's vision for national security included the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) that demonstrated during Operation Sindoor the synergy between the three wings of the armed forces as well.

A major part of his speech was devoted to an aggressive attack on the Congress, which had raised questions based on Mr. Trump's claims, but also had raised questions on the Uri operation and Balakot air strikes by the Indian government in the past. "The Congress seems to be taking its talking points from Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Modi then delved into history to "expose" what he said were diplomatic missteps of the Congress governments of the past. He spoke at length about the Indus Waters Treaty, finalised under then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, which he said not just gave away 80% of the Indus water, but came with an undertaking from India that it would not even desilt the dams on its side of the border.

Shah reveals identity of three Pahalgam attackers

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Close watch: The Quick Respose Team of the CRPF patrols in Srinagar on Tuesday following Operation Mahadev. PTI

Names differ from what was revealed soon after the attack on April 22; no home-grown terrorist identified now

Soon after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had released sketches of three suspects – Adil Hussain Thoker, a resident of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir; and Ali Bhai, alias Talha Bhai; and Suleiman, both Pakistani nationals.

However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the three terrorists who had carried out the carnage were killed in Dachigam in the Kashmir Valley on Monday and they were all Pakistanis. He identified them as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt; Hamza Afghani; and Zibran.

He said Pakistani voter identity cards were found on two of the terrorists, and Pakistani chocolates were recovered near the bodies.

Mr. Shah said the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Army personnel set out on foot for several days to track the devices used by the terrorists.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the initial sketches were based on preliminary investigation and a photograph that was recovered from the phone of a terrorist killed near Dachigam in December 2024.

"There were conflicting reports on the number of terrorists at Baisaran meadow on the day of the incident. Eyewitnesses and victims said there were four to six terrorists. After detailed interviews, it was concluded that there were three terrorists and all of them were killed on July 28 during Operation Mahadev," another official said.

The Home Minister said that ballistic and forensic reports of the two AK-47 and M4 Carbine found on the killed terrorists were matched with the empty cartridges recovered at the Baisaran meadow, leading to the conclusion that the three terrorists were involved in the Pahalgam terror attack. The three terrorists used "ultra high frequency wireless sets" to communicate with other operatives and also their aides across the border, the first official said.

They entered India from Pakistan around three years ago and were said to be hiding in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forests, around 20 km from Srinagar, since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed. Last year, they split into two groups, one led by Suleman, and the other by another Pakistani terrorist identified as Musa.

"Freshly infiltrated LeT cadres joined Suleman last year and they were operating in Kashmir Valley," said the second official.

The wireless sets, which have a range of 20 km to 25 km, need a clear line of sight and a unique frequency for communication between two devices.

"Though the calls could not be intercepted, the security forces, with the help of a direction finder, picked up the signals on multiple occasions in the forest area, the first signal being intercepted on May 22," the first official said.

In RS, Opposition questions Centre on terms of ceasefire

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

During a special discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday on 'India's strong, successful and decisive 'Operation Sindoor' in response to terrorist attack in Pahalgam', Opposition MPs asked the Centre to explain why the country had accepted a ceasefire with Pakistan when Pakistan was on the backfoot.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked the Union government why India accepted a ceasefire even when Pakistan was on the back foot and what are the terms of the ceasefire. He asked the Centre whether U.S. Government intervened during Operation Sindoor and at whose behest was that done.

He asked Union Minister Amit Shah to resign taking the moral responsibility for the "security lapse" in Pahalgam.

Ruling National Democratic Alliance members countered the arguments.

Operation Sindoor had proved that giving a befitting answer to terrorism was the "new normal" for India, unlike in the past Congress governments that "did not retaliate" even after the terrorist attack in November 2008, they said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had accepted no third party intervention, and there had been no pressure from foreign powers to announce the ceasefire.

Ruling dispensation lacked will to carry out Operation Sindoor: Rahul

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that the ruling NDA lacked political will to carry out Operation Sindoor, and the entire exercise was carried out only to protect the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Participating in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam attack in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said he wanted to tell the Prime Minister that the nation was above his image, politics and public relations exercise and that Mr. Modi must have "the humility and the dignity" to understand that.

The problem which India faced, the leader said, was not just Pakistan and China, but "China and Pakistan fused militarily".

"If you want to fight, then go all out and defeat them once and for all... We cannot afford a PM who doesn't have courage to use Army the way it has to be used... We need a Prime Minister who frees the Army, the Air Force, like Indira Gandhi did," he said.

Asserting that every Indian had felt pain when they thought of the Pahalgam attack, Mr. Gandhi said the Indian forces were tigers who would die for the country. But "tigers should be given freedom. You cannot tie them down".

He said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in his speech on Monday, had compared Operation Sindoor to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. "But there was political will in 1971. The U.S. seventh fleet was on its way towards India and then the Prime Minister said we will do what we want to. The superpower was coming, but the Prime Minister says we don't care," he said.

Similarly, General Manekshaw told Indira Gandhi that he would not do the operation in summer and Indira Gandhi gave him the freedom of action and manoeuvre, he said.

'Asking for ceasefire'

Mr. Gandhi said the Defence Minister had revealed that the Director-General of Military Operations was told by the Government of India to ask for a ceasefire just 30 minutes after Operation Sindoor began. "You told them we will not hit military targets, we do not want escalation."

He alleged, "The Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan that we have no political will and we will not fight."

He said that while all countries mentioned by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar condemned terror, not a single country condemned Pakistan post the Pahalgam attack, which meant that the world was equating India with Pakistan.

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said Home Minister Amit Shah did not speak a single word on the security failure over the Pahalgam attack. "If you are calling tourists to visit Kashmir, isn't it your primary duty to make security available to them? Around one crore tourists visited J&K during that period. Here even if 50 people are gathering, there will be security and surveillance." Mr. Shah's speech was completely baseless, he said.

Fix accountability for Pahalgam attack, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders, speaking in the Lok Sabha on the second day of the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday, targeted the Narendra Modi government over "intelligence failure" and the "lack of security" that resulted in the Pahalgam terror attack and sought to fix responsibility.

They questioned the "abrupt ceasefire announcement" on social media by U.S. President Donald Trump, and attacked India's foreign policy for being unable to isolate Pakistan.

Lok Sabha member from Wayanad and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asserted that leadership was not just about taking credit but also about owning responsibility. Ms. Vadra said that Mr. Trump announcing the ceasefire reflected the Prime Minister's "irresponsibility".

Taking on Home Minister Amit Shah, who, quoting former Union Minister Salman Khurshid, had said that "Sonia Gandhi cried for Batla House terrorists", Ms. Vadra replied, "I would like to answer to that point, my mother cried when her husband was martyred by terrorists."

No self-praise by the government about Operation Sindoor can take away their culpability in leaving tourists without any security, she said. "I want to ask whose responsibility is the safety of the country's citizens? Is it not the responsibility of this country's Prime Minister, Home Minister, Defence Minister," Ms. Vadra asked.

> I want to ask whose responsibility is the safety of the country's citizens? Is it not the responsibility of this country's Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Union Defence Minister?
>
> **PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA**
> Congress MP

She read out the names of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. When BJP members shouted that they were all Hindus, she replied, "They were all Bharatiyas."

In a sharp attack, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi alleged that the government had failed the people of India and it was forced to send Opposition leaders on multi-party delegations for global outreach post Operation Sindoor.

'Blame game'

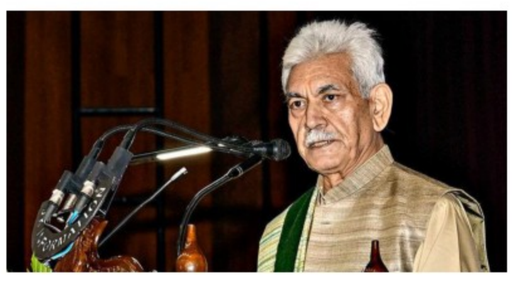
"We had to go because you have failed the people of India. The *vishwaguru* has failed us... Today it has become a blame game. Even today, the Home Minister, in his speech, only concentrated on blaming the Opposition," she said.

Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said the Modi government had claimed that after the dilution of Article 370, there would be no more terror attacks but it was forced to launch Operation Sindoor after the Pahalgam attack.

"The launch of Operation Sindoor post the Pahalgam attack is itself a symbol of the government's failure," Mr. Yadav said. "During Operation Sindoor, no country stood by us. This is a dark phase for India's foreign diplomacy."

The SP chief also questioned the timing of Operation Mahadev, to eliminate the terrorists involved in the April 22 terror attack, on the day Parliament started the debate.

INBRIEF



Lieutenant-Governor briefed on Operation Mahadev

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was on Tuesday briefed by Lieutenant-General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command, on Operation Mahadev, where three terrorists were left dead on Monday in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forest in Srinagar. The GOC-in-C Northern Command said search operations had been ongoing from south Kashmir to the Dachigam forest areas for the past few months. "A joint operation was then launched by the Army, J&K Police and CRPF, with the significant assistance of intelligence agencies, leading to the elimination of Pakistani terrorists," a Raj Bhavan spokesperson said.

In Rajya Sabha, Rajnath terms Pakistan 'nursery of terrorism'

Describing Pakistan as a "nursery of terrorism, which must not be nourished", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon the international community to halt foreign funding to the country. Initiating a debate on Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Singh said that providing financial assistance to Pakistan amounted to supporting the infrastructure of terrorism. Mr. Singh reiterated that if Pakistan was unable to take effective steps to counter terrorism, it should seek India's assistance.

Court defers order on charge sheet in *National Herald* case

A Delhi court on Tuesday deferred order on taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in the *National Herald* case in which Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi are accused. Special judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court listed the matter for August 7 and 8 for certain clarifications. The case stems from assignment of a ₹90-crore loan advanced by the Congress to Associated Journals Ltd., the publisher of *National Herald*, to Young Indian for a consideration of ₹50 lakh. It has been alleged that there was misappropriation of assets of over ₹2,000 crore in an equity transaction.

INBRIEF

Torrential rain disrupts life across West Bengal

Life was severely affected across northern and southern parts of West Bengal as rain has been lashing the State for over two days. The Teesta river overflowed onto National Highway 10 in north Bengal, while houses collapsed in parts of Kolkata, injuring three persons. Between Monday and Tuesday, the water level of the Teesta river rose steadily and crossed the danger mark, said the daily flood reports issued by the Irrigation and Waterways Department of West Bengal. Landslides were reported in parts of north Bengal. The local administration has shifted people residing along the Teesta river to safer locations.

Govt. grants provisional award letters to selected candidates

Weeks after withholding provisional award letters to 66 selected candidates from marginalised backgrounds under the government's National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme, the Social Justice Ministry informed Parliament on Tuesday that the letters had been issued to all selected candidates. On July 1, the Ministry declared the list of candidates selected under the NOS scheme meant for students from Scheduled Castes, Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. It said that for the 2025-26 period, it had selected 106 students who will get the scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies in top universities abroad.

Countdown on; NISAR satellite launch today

GSLV will lift off with 2,392-kg satellite at 5.40 p.m.; building a satellite on opposite sides of world during a global pandemic was really hard, but it strengthened ties with ISRO, say NASA officials

Hemanth C.S.
CHENNAI

The 27.5-hour countdown to the NISAR satellite mission started at 2.10 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle with the 2,392-kg satellite is scheduled to lift off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on Wednesday. About 19 minutes after lift-off, the GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit.

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, which will scan the entire globe and provide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day intervals and enable a wide range of applications, is the first joint satellite of the two space agencies.

Forging ties

Senior National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials have said that working with the Indian Space Research Organisation on the NISAR satellite mission has strengthened their relationship with the Indian space agency.

This photo provided by NASA shows part of the NISAR satellite resting in a thermal vacuum chamber in August 2020. AP

Ahead of the launch, Karen St. Germain, Director of Earth Science, NASA Headquarters, on Tuesday said: "Building a satellite on opposite sides of the world during a global pandemic was really hard, but it strengthened our relationship with ISRO. The collaboration, the cooperation, information sharing, and, frankly, joint learning between our two agencies is a foundation that we look forward to continuing to build upon."

Ms. St. Germain said it was a model for the next generation of earth observation capability.

"India built the spacecraft bus and the S-band radar and is providing the launch vehicle, launch services, and satellite mission operations. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) built the L-band radar and the mission's radar reflector and boom. NASA is also providing a high-rated communications subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder, and the payload data subsystem," she said.

Phil Barela, NISAR project manager, JPL, said the two space agencies had learnt a lot from each other in the past decade.

"We have been at this for over a decade with our partner, ISRO, and it's been a phenomenal journey. The amount that we have learned from each other during this period has just been phenomenal," Mr. Barela said.

He said that during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 65 ISRO engineers had visited the JPL to work on the integration and to conduct tests.

"Over the last two-and-a-half years, NASA has sent out over 175 engineers to ISRO's facilities to keep the integration and tests going and get us ready for where we stand today and ready for launch. It has been a wonderful journey. I'm anticipating a lot of very happy people, not only in the U.S., but also in India," he added.

DGCA audit flags 51 safety lapses in Air India's operations

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has found 51 safety lapses at Air India in its July audit, including lack of adequate training for some pilots, use of unapproved simulators and a poor rostering system, according to a government report seen by *Reuters*.

The Tata Group-owned airline is already facing warning notices for running planes without checking emergency equipment, not changing engine parts in time and forging records, along with other lapses related to crew fatigue management.

The 11-page confidential report from the DGCA said there were seven "Level I" significant breaches which need to be fixed by Wednesday, and 44 other non-compliances classified which need to be resolved by August 23.

Officials said they found "recurrent training gaps" for some unspecified Boeing 787 and 777 pilots, saying they had not completed their monitoring duties ahead of mandatory periodic evaluations.

The annual audit was not related to the deadly Boeing 787 crash last month that killed 260 people in Ahmedabad, but its findings come as the airline faces renewed scrutiny after the accident.

The annual audit was not related to the deadly crash last month in Ahmedabad.

The officials wrote in their report that Air India did not do "proper route assessments" for some so-called Category C airports – which may have challenging layouts or terrain – and conducted training for such airfields with simulators that did not meet qualification standards. "This may account to non-consideration of safety risks during approaches to challenging airports," the report said.

Air India said it was "fully transparent" during the audit. It added it will "submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the corrective actions."

Kaziranga in Assam records third-highest tiger density in India after Bandipur, Corbett

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has recorded the third-highest tiger density in India after the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, says a report on the status of tigers in the reserve, which is better known for its one-horned rhinoceros.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the report online to mark Global Tiger Day on Tuesday.

The report stated that 148 tigers were recorded across the 1,307.49-sq. km expanse of the KTR in 2024. The "remarkable" increase since the 2022 estimation was attributed to the first-ever sampling of the Biswanath Wildlife Division, where 27 tigers were recorded.

A royal Bengal tiger inside the Kaziranga National Park. AP

The tiger count grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024 in the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, while the Nagaon Wildlife Division maintained a count of six tigers.

"From Kaziranga to Manas, Assam is not only limited to protecting the tiger, but it is also playing an important role in restoring the tiger's habitat. With the third-highest tiger density in the world, extensive forest cover and bold steps against infiltration, the tiger, the treasure of Assam's forests, is walking proudly and bravely today," Mr. Sarma said.

The report said the KTR has 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km – behind Bandipur's 19.83 tigers in 1,456 sq. km and Corbett's 19.56 in 1,288 sq. km. KTR officials said the survey was conducted between December 2023 and April 2024 using camera traps, following the protocol of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The spatially explicit capture-recapture method, which provides a more precise and ecologically relevant approach, was employed to determine tiger numbers.

LoIs issued for campuses of 4 foreign varsities; Pradhan announces projects worth ₹4,000 cr.

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) to four foreign universities for establishing their campuses in India. They are Western Sydney University (WSU), Victoria University, and La Trobe University of Australia and the University of Bristol of the U.K.

Speaking at the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS), an event to commemorate five years of the National Education Policy, 2020, Mr. Pradhan said that up to 15 international universities would establish their campuses in India.

"Of these, Australia's Deakin University and University of Wollongong have already established campus in Gujarat's GIFT city and U.K.'s Southampton University in Delhi NCR's Gurugram," Mr. Pradhan said.

Dharmendra Pradhan issues Letters of Intent to representatives of foreign universities at an event to mark five years of NEP 2020. PIB

The ABSS serves as a platform for policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and government representatives to review progress under the NEP, 2020 and chart the way forward.

The WSU will open a campus in Greater Noida and Victoria University in Noida. La Trobe University will establish its campus in Bengaluru. The University of Bristol will establish a campus in Mumbai.

The WSU plans to offer BA programmes in business analytics and business marketing and MBA in innovation and entrepreneurship, and logistics and supply chain management on its Greater Noida campus.

Victoria University proposes to offer undergraduate degrees in business, data science and cybersecurity and MBA and Masters in Information and Technology.

La Trobe University is proposing to offer undergraduate degrees in business (finance, marketing, and Mmanagement), computer science (AI, software engineering), and public health and open a Joint Ph.D. academy with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for health, water and urban planning.

The University of Bristol, planning to start operations in 2026, will offer joint undergraduate-to-Master's programmes, student exchange, and collaborative research in AI, design, and digital technologies in collaboration with ATLAS SkillTech University in Mumbai and a "3+1" degree pathway with Krea University (Sri City), enabling students to complete undergraduate studies in India and pursue masters degrees at Bristol in innovation, policy, and analytics.

NEP features

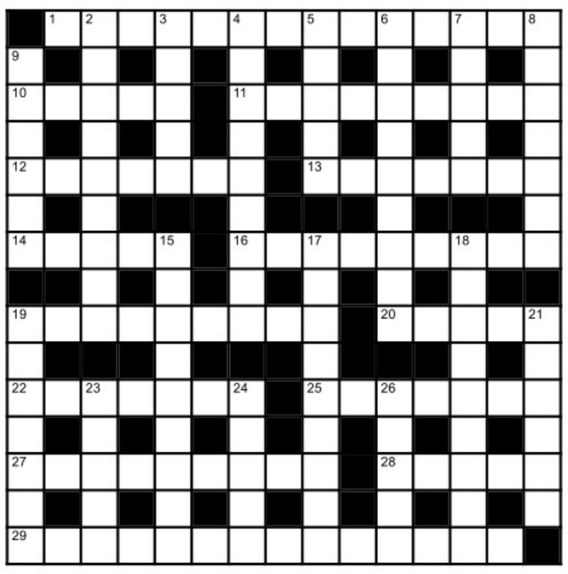
Mr. Pradhan said various States had drawn up plans to implement pre-school or foundational level education in their mother tongue, which is the spirit of the NEP, 2020. He said introduction of new-age textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was a paradigm shift in education. He announced education projects worth over ₹4,000 crore while inaugurating the ABSS. These include infrastructure upgrades in Central Board of Secondary Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalalayas.

TH CROSSWORD + 14550

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Working with sales force - one way to reach there fast (2,3,4,5)
10 Crime in Madras found to have happened regularly (5)
11 Weapon assessed and smashed (9)
12 Business representative on a ship within reach (7)
13 Grounds are ground issues (7)
14 For these old two-wheelers, ban drink leading to social unrest (5)
16 Creams get special mention on Times covers (9)
19 It's the mirror image of a tongue (9)
20 Lament about electronic network (5)
22 Book about power distribution in a Welsh town (7)
25 Intend to stop payment for clothing (7)
27 See Indian shop with short soldier guarding (9)
28 Talk about Indian PM shielding top industrialist (5)
29 Doctor to use algorithm, perhaps (14)

Down

2 Dirty bottles point to same cooking medium (6,3)
3 Dye found within the borders of state capital (5)
4 You can sit on it if current temperature is cool outside (9)
5 Only Mark gets the prize (5)
6 Was ready for any eventuality with a reformed criminal (9)
7 Pinpoint role so as to allow formal initiation (5)
8 Somehow assist bury the dead - they are vicious (7)
9 House sickness? (6)
15 It may sort of turn into a packaging material (9)
17 Broken arm in clue is digital (9)
18 Run up and run down where plants and trees are grown (9)
19 Dress restriction you'll find in hotel rooms (7)
21 Bury original bottom line, wasted toil (6)
23 A way to stop us spend (5)
24 Sailor to come up on deck (5)
26 Watching - not over bonus (5)

SUDOKU

						3	1	
	2	8			5			
7			9	1		6	5	8
		1	8		7			3
2		6				8		1
8			1		6	4		
9	8	5		4	3			6
			6			9	8	
	1	4						

No.SS6596 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	1	9	6	3	4	5	8
8	6	3	2	5	4	1	7	9
4	5	9	1	8	7	3	2	6
6	4	2	7	1	5	9	8	3
7	1	5	3	9	8	2	6	4
3	9	8	4	2	6	5	1	7
9	8	7	5	3	1	6	4	2
1	3	6	8	4	2	7	9	5
5	2	4	6	7	9	8	3	1

FAITH

Karma and Dharma

The doctrine of Karma implies that a person is subject to pleasure and pain due to the effect of the deeds undertaken in previous births. Karma has no beginning and cannot be traced. Karma gives the cycle of births and rebirths. God does not need the sanction of our belief to run the universe. He is neutral and impartial. If karma decides everything, what is the role of God? Thirukkudanthai Sri. Venkatesh said in a discourse that Lord Krishna states in the Gita that five things are essential to perform an act. The doer, the physical body, the life air, the various kinds of organs, and the Divinity (God). God extends to us a limited free will to perform actions, and we have to use it judiciously.

Noble men would feel that if they faced problems and sufferings, it may be due to their misdeeds, and if any good thing happened, it would be because of God's blessings. A doubt arises whether the fruit of the action is due to our performance or granted by God. All our deeds are to be aimed at satisfying God, and if He is pleased, He will extend His blessings. He will not give at random. It depends on our attitudes and beliefs. In the churning of the milk ocean, the celestials indulged in it with the sole aim of rendering service to God, while the Asuras tried to overpower God. Hence, He chose to give nectar to the celestials. Dharma has several meanings and explanations, and in this context, it refers to "Sastras", which define a set of rules and regulations to be followed. The Lord says that the Vedas and the Sastras are His commands. By following the prescribed codes of conduct, people can derive His blessings and reach the realm of His abode.

INBRIEF

SC agrees to hear review pleas in Bhushan Steel verdict

The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed July 31 for hearing pleas seeking a review of a May 2 verdict that set aside a resolution plan submitted by JSW Steel Limited for Bhushan Steel and Power Limited (BSPL), holding it illegal and in violation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma allowed an application for open-court hearing and fixed July 31 for hearing a batch of pleas seeking a review of the verdict. PTI

NCLT admits insolvency plea against Blu-Smart Mobility

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad, has admitted Blu-Smart Mobility Ltd., an electric vehicle ride-hailing service, for insolvency resolution following a petition filed by Catalyst Trusteeship Ltd. Catalyst Trusteeship, acting as a debenture trustee for Incred Credit Opportunities Fund-I and a financial creditor, filed a petition against Blu-Smart, a related entity of Gensol Engineering, alleging a default of about ₹1.28 crore.

Bank of India Q1 net profit rises 32% to ₹6,068 crore

Bank of India reported 32% YoY growth in net profit at ₹2,252 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025. However the bank's net interest income fell 3.29% YoY to ₹6,068 crore. Global net interest margin for the quarter fell from 3.07% to 2.55%. Gross NPA reduced 29% YoY to ₹19.640 crore, while net NPA fell 13% to Rs 4.950 crore. Provision coverage ratio improved by 83 bps YoY and stood at 92.94%.The bank's slippage ratio improved by 2 bps YoY and stood at 0.33%.

L&T Q1 consolidated net profit surges 30% to ₹3,617 cr.

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) reported 30% year-on-year growth in Q1 consolidated net profit to ₹3,617 crore. The company achieved consolidated revenues of ₹63,679 crore, registering a YoY growth of 16% with healthy execution witnessed in its key Projects & Manufacturing (P&M) portfolio. International revenues during the quarter were at ₹32,994 crore which constituted 52% of the total revenues.

'India may replicate pro-MSME features in future trade deals'

This will be along the lines of what was included in the recently signed agreement with the U.K., according to Commerce Ministry officials

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Indian negotiators are trying to ensure future trade agreements, such as those with the U.S. and the EU, include similar carved-out features to benefit Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) along the lines of what was included in the recently signed agreement with the U.K., according to Commerce Ministry officials.

"The primary goal is to enhance cooperation and information sharing to improve the ability of MSMEs to participate in bilateral trade and investment," an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity as negotiations for a trade deal with the U.S. and the EU are still ongoing.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the U.K., signed last week, included a specific dedicated chapter on SMEs, which India had argued for, the official explained.

Among the key features included in the India-U.K. CETA that MSMEs stand to benefit is the provision for the establishment of an MSME contact point in both countries, the sharing of information on regulations, certifications and market opportunities, and provisions for cooperation on trade promotion activities, including exhibitions and business-to-business (B2B) events. When it comes to public procurement, U.K. suppliers looking to bid for Indian government contracts will be treated as 'Class-II local suppliers' in domestic tenders above agreed thresholds, while Indian suppliers, including MSMEs, will continue to receive preferential treatment as 'Class-I local suppliers'.

"India is trying to include such carve-outs for MSMEs in ongoing trade deal discussions as well, as safeguarding our MSMEs is a priority," the official said.

The CETA also includes a mechanism for addressing non-tariff barriers that disproportionately affect MSMEs. "The labour-intensive sectors that have been the focus in CETA are textiles, footwear, leather products, marine products, toys, sports goods, and gems and jewellery," Rumki Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte India, explained. "These sectors are not only labour-intensive but also have a huge contribution from the MSME sector."

According to Ms. Majumdar, the export share of these sectors was 24.6% in 2024-25, down from 30.4% in 2018-19.

"Therefore, free access to the U.K. market will give a big thrust to these sectors, which in turn will have a multiplier effect on jobs and income as well as across rural and semi-urban MSME sectors," she added. The CETA also encourages technical cooperation to enhance MSME capabilities and joint efforts by the two countries to promote women-owned and rural MSMEs.

Solid push

The India-U.K. CETA signed last week included a specific dedicated chapter on SMEs, which India had argued for

- A key feature of the agreement was provision for establishment of an MSME contact point in both countries
- Indian suppliers, including MSMEs, will continue to receive preferential treatment as 'Class-I local suppliers'

- A mechanism for addressing non-tariff barriers that disproportionately affect MSMEs

IMF upgrades India's growth forecast in line with global uptick

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IMF has upgraded India's growth expectations to 6.4% in both 2025-26 and 2026-27

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded India's growth expectations to 6.4% in both 2025-26 and 2026-27 compared with what it had predicted in April. The growth upgrade, of 0.2 percentage points and 0.1 percentage points, respectively, is in line with the upgrades for global growth.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook July update upgraded its global growth forecast to 3% for 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, 0.2 percentage and 0.1 percentage points higher than that predicted in the April 2025 edition.

"This reflects stronger-than-expected front-loading in anticipation of higher tariffs, lower average effective U.S. tariff rates than announced in April, an improvement in financial conditions, including due to a weaker U.S. dollar, and fiscal expansion in some major jurisdictions," the report said.

RBI caps investment by banks, NBFCs at 20% of corpus of AIF scheme

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines capping investment by Regulated Entities (REs) at 20% of the corpus of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) scheme.

No RE can individually contribute more than 10% of the corpus of an AIF scheme, RBI said in a circular on Tuesday.

"Collective contribution by all REs in any AIF Scheme shall not be more than 20% of the corpus of that scheme," it added.

If a regulated entity contributes more than 5% of the corpus of an AIF scheme, which also has downstream investment (excluding equity instruments) in a debtor company of the RE, then the regulated entity will be required to make 100% provision to the extent of its proportionate investment in the debtor company through the AIF scheme, subject to a maximum of the direct loan and/ or investment exposure of the RE to the debtor company, the banking regulator said in the circular.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,338	0.55
US Dollar	86.91	-0.24
Gold	97,820	-0.20
Brent oil	71.07	1.77

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2547.90	25.60
Adani Ports	1395.90	19.90
Apollo Hosp	7456.00	99.50
Asian Paints	2401.50	41.90
Axis Bank	1064.20	-9.40
Bajaj Auto	8127.50	38.00
Bajaj Finserv	1972.60	-5.20
Bajaj Finance	886.55	6.05
Bharat Elec	388.25	-1.00
Bharti Airtel	1918.30	28.00
Cipla	1574.00	2.00
Coal India	383.65	5.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1299.80	12.40
Eicher Motors	5470.50	84.50
Eternal Ltd.	306.55	-0.75
Grasim Ind	2743.00	15.80
HCL Tech	1472.40	6.30
HDFC Bank	2021.60	13.10
HDFC Life	756.35	-4.85
Hero MotoCorp	4325.20	34.10
Hindalco	692.70	3.35
Hind Unilever	2453.60	12.00
ICICI Bank	1486.20	-2.20
IndusInd Bank	808.20	6.15
Infosys	1513.70	-2.30
ITC	408.45	-1.45
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	321.10	13.75
JSW Steel	1034.90	6.10
Kotak Bank	1972.70	6.10
L&T	3495.60	73.40
M&M	3199.40	-10.40
Maruti Suzuki	12469.00	129.00
NestleIndia	2223.70	-5.60
NTPC	334.60	1.65
ONGC	241.44	1.42
PowerGrid Corp	293.10	1.20
Reliance Ind	1417.10	29.50
SBI Life	1833.40	-17.10
State Bank	799.20	2.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	638.35	4.90
Sun Pharma	1710.50	8.30
TataConsumerProduct	1061.60	1.70
Tata Motors	692.35	9.45
Tata Steel	161.69	2.01
TCS	3056.00	-23.30
Tech Mahindra	1453.80	3.20
Titan	3379.20	-13.80
Trent Ltd.	5001.50	7.50
UltraTech Cement	12221.00	-19.00
Wipro	251.80	1.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.62	86.94
Euro	99.91	100.29
British Pound	115.42	115.85
Japanese Yen (100)	58.27	58.49
Chinese Yuan	12.07	12.11
Swiss Franc	107.33	107.74
Singapore Dollar	67.20	67.46
Canadian Dollar	62.89	63.13
Malaysian Ringitt	20.45	20.54
Australian Dollar	56.31	56.52

Source:Indian Bank

Minister moots integrating A.P. with Google's server supply chain

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Minister for HRD, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh held a series of high-level meetings with global tech and infrastructure leaders in Singapore on Tuesday to attract investments and accelerate digital transformation in the State.

In a key meeting with Drew Brynes, Director of Google Cloud, Mr. Lokesh urged the tech giant to expedite the establishment of its data centre campus proposed in Visakhapatnam. The MoU was signed in December 2023.

Highlighting the State's preparedness, Mr. Lokesh invited Google to explore setting up a chip-designing centre at the campus, considering Google's interest in proprietary server chips. He proposed integrating AP into Google's global server supply chain and making the State a maintenance and repair hub, leveraging its robust air and port connectivity.

Mr. Lokesh also met Hiroyuki Niwa, MD of Murata Electronics, and invited the Japan-based firm to establish an advanced electronics manufacturing unit in the State.

Citing the State's Electronics 4.0 Policy and strong cluster support, he pitched AP as a future electronics manufacturing hub, with Tirupati already hosting major players such as LG, Dixon, and Blue Star. In discussions with Arun Bhatia, Executive Director of Carrier, Mr. Lokesh emphasised collaboration on cold chain logistics and energy-efficient HVAC systems for cities such as Amaravati and Visakhapatnam.

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
MAHANAGAR SEVA SADAN
STREETLIGHT / TR. SIGNAL DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance contract of Street Light Poles, SITC of Street Light work and SITC and Implementation of Centralized smart city Management System (CMS for street Light) at various places of Ahmedabad city for Five Years.

Prebid meeting Date & Time	7/08/2025 at 11:00 Hrs., Deputy Municipal commissioner (Light) Office, 2nd Floor, C-Wing, Danapith, Ahmedabad-380001
Last date of Tender Submission (Online)	Date : 21/08/2025 up to 18:00 Hrs.
Last date of Tender Submission (Hard Copy)	Date : 22/08/2025 up to 14:00 Hrs.
Detail and Tenders available on	On web site **www.nprocure.com** Or **https://amc.nprocure.com**

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/33 kV VCB-2nd call/25-26/15 Date: 30.07.2025
E-Tender is invited for procurement of 33 kV VCB. Bid documents can be downloaded from **30.07.2025, 11:00 A.M.** and bid shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 27.08.2025**. Visit the following websites - **www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA- T16021(3)/2025

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2025_KMML_778907_1	For the supply of Plate Tantalum
2.	2025_KMML_778845_1	For the supply of FRP Pipe and Fittings(Vinyl ester)
3.	2025_KMML_779817_1	For the supply of Pipe Seamless CS 250mm-100MR
4.	2025_KMML_779555_1	For Supply of Uniform Cloths-Suiting & Shirting
5.	2025_KMML_779889_1	For the supply of 145KV SF-6 Gas Circuit Breaker
6.	2025_KMML_780110_1	For the supply of Class 1 Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
7.	2025_KMML_780259_1	For the supply of Chlorinator Bricks

Chavara 29.07.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

Office of the Project Director PMU(RWSRPD) & Chief Engineer
Water Resources(North) Hanumangarh
Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB Code-WRN2526A0057)
Bid for work related to **Hiring of consultant for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for Desert Area** estimated cost of work from Rs.283.19 Lakh is invited from prospective bidders up to 07.08.2025 Time 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, of the state and www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN No. - WRN2526SLOB00199
(Pradeep Rustagi)
Project Director PMU (RWSRPD) & Chief Engineer
water resources(North)
DIPR/C/10312/2025 Hanumangarh

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. CIRCLE DAUSA
क्रमांकः– फा./निविदा/2025–26/डी-1575-1589 दिनांक :11-07-2025
Notice Inviting Bid
04/2025-26
Bids for **Nit No 04/2025-26, 11 Nos. Road Work** are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 19.08.2025, 06:00 P.M**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. and -departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 4319.00 Lacs
NIB Code & UBN No.

NIB code	PWD2526A1997	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07188, PWD2526WSOB07189
NIB code	PWD2526A1998	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07202, PWD2526WLOB07203
NIB code	PWD2526A2006	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07207, PWD2526WSOB07208 PWD2526WSOB07209
NIB code	PWD2526A2022	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07273, PWD2526WSOB07274
NIB code	PWD2526A2023	UBN No.	PWD2526WSOB07275, PWD2526WLOB07276

(M.L. Meena)
Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/10280/2025 PWD, Circle Dausa

SKILL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, KOCHI
Tender No: SDS/390 dt 30.07.25
TENDER for **Selection of Training Partner (TP) for SDI-Kochi**
Skill Development Institute, Kochi is an initiative of Oil & Gas PSUs, established for development of job skills of unemployed youth to make them industry ready for employment. Sealed tenders in two-bid system are invited from qualified firms for imparting training to the students. EMD is Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Tender documents can be downloaded from the website **www.sdskochi.com** from 30.07.25 to 20.08.25. Tender submission last date is by or before 2 pm on 20.08.25. Further queries, if any, can be had from the SDS-Kochi Office during office hours (Tel: 0484-2826851, **umeshkumarj@bharatpetroleum.in**).
30.07.2025 Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ITE&C Department
Expression of Interest (EOI)
The Amaravati Quantum computer centre invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for the physical installation of a Quantum Computer at the Amaravati Quantum Computer Centre (AQCC). The Proposal shall include the following
a. Detailed infrastructure requirements necessary for housing the system, including power supply specifications, quantum processing units (QPU) proposed, physical space, structural load conditions, thermodynamic and magnetic shield requirements, and cryogenic systems compatible with their equipment.
b. Rental rate per square foot per month (in Indian Rupees) they are willing to pay.
c. Percentage of quantum compute time they are willing to allocate to the GoAP for public, academic, research or other use.
d. The proposals may be sent by email to **secy_itc@ap.gov.in** or by registered post to the Office of the Secretary, ITE&C Department, 1st Floor, Building-4, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi on or before **12.08.2025.**
EoI Calling Date: 30.07.2025 EoI Closing Date: 12.08.2025
Contact person:
1. K. Dhavuryan Naik, Director (communications), Mobile: 9963029418
2. B. Sundar, Special Secretary, ITE&C Department
Ph.0863-2444247 | spl_secy@ap.gov.in | https://apit.ap.gov.in
DIPR NO.4300PP/CL, Dt: 29.07.2025

NOTICE
Inviting Applications for the Post of Vice-Chancellor:
• Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand – 263145.
• The tenure of the present Vice-Chancellor of Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar, will conclude on 28th August 2025. Accordingly, it is proposed to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor, and a Search Committee has been constituted to prepare a panel of eminent persons for this purpose.
• As the Principal Executive and Academic Officer of the University, the Vice-Chancellor must possess exceptional leadership qualities, administrative experience, and a strong academic background. The incumbent should be a person of integrity, vision, and commitment to steer the University towards academic and institutional excellence
Eligibility Criteria:
• At least 10 years of experience as Professor in a University or equivalent experience in a reputed academic/research organization in Teaching, Research or Extension in the field of Agriculture or allied sciences.
• Experience in senior management positions in the above areas will be considered a desirable qualification.
• The applicant should not be more than 67 years of age as on the last date of receipt of application, i.e., **18th August 2025.**
Tenure:
The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of joining or until the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier.
Application Procedure:
1. Applications in the prescribed format (available at **www.gbpuat.ac.in)** must be submitted either:
2. By Speed Post/In Person to the address mentioned below, or
3. By Email to: **ukfarmerprosperitygoal@gmail.com.**
4. Last Date for Submission: **18th August 2025.**
Applications received after the due date will not be considered.
Address for Submission:
(Dr. S. N. Pandey)
Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Vishwakarma Bhawan, Room No. 505, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 04-Subhash Road,Dehradun-248001
Email: ukfarmerprosperitygoal@gmail.com

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 022
विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी/पी/विज्ञापन/399/2025 दिनांक 28.07.2025
ADVT. NO. VSSC/P/ADVT/399/2025 DT. 28.07.2025
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए तथा उनकी ओर से वरिष्ठ प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी), तिरुवनंतपुरम, निम्नलिखित के लिए मोहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है।
For & on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Head Purchase & Stores, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram invites Sealed Tender for the following:-

क्रम सं Sl No.	निविदा सं./Tender No.	वर्णन/Description	मात्रा Qty.	निविदा शुल्क Tender Fee
01.	8082 2025 1316 [पीटी - एकल भाग / PT - SINGLE PART]	फिसियोथेरापिस्ट के लिए कार्य संविदा/ Work contract for engaging physiotherapist	2 years	रु.560/-

नोट: विनिर्देशन तथा विस्तृत निबंधन एवं शर्तें निविदा दस्तावेज़ के अनुसार
Note :- Specification and detailed terms & conditions as per Tender document
निविदा दस्तावेज़ों को डाउनलोड करने/बोली की प्रस्तुती/बोली खोलने की तिथि की समय सीमा से संबंधित ब्यौरों के लिए, कृपया, हमारे वेबसाइट **(www.isro.gov.in / www.vssc.gov.in)** में प्रकाशित विस्तृत निविदा सूचना का अवलोकन करें।
For details regarding time limit for downloading Tender documents / Submission of bid / Bid opening date, please refer detailed tender notice published in our website **(www.isro.gov.in / www.vssc.gov.in)**
हस्ताक्षरित/Sd/-
वरि. प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार/Sr. Head, Purchase & Stores

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
EHV PC O&M Zone, Vashi
E-TENDER NOTICE (4th Call)
MSETCL SRM invites online RFx (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
E-tender No./ RFx No. 7000036605 (4th Call) Name of work: "1] Replacement of old 0.35 ACSR Sheep conductor with new 0.4 ACSR Zebra conductor and existing suspension tower with 30° Cut point towers 2] Height raising by new narrow base tower NDX+12 from Loc. No. 637 to 646 in Vichumbe & New Panvel area of 220 kV Kandalgaon – ONGC – Vilebhagad – Topworth D/C line under jurisdiction of EHV O&M Division Panvel & EHV O&M Circle, Mahad under EHV O&M Circle, Panvel." **Estimated Cost:** Rs.46,11,81,820 /- including GST Tender Fees: Rs. 25000/-+ GST. **Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents:** From 29.07.2025 @ 11.00 Hrs to 19.08.2025 @ 11.15 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Vashi

LONDON

Renowned economist, House of Lords peer Meghnad Desai, dies

PTI

Lord Meghnad Desai, renowned British Indian economist and House of Lords peer, died on Tuesday aged 85. He passed away in a hospital in Gurugram following a health issue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led tributes to the Gujarat-born parliamentarian and thinker, who played a crucial role in deepening India-U.K. ties. PTI

MIYUN

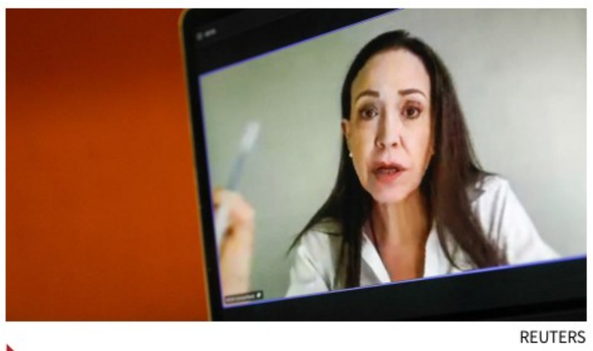
More than 30 killed as heavy rain, landslides lash northern China

AP

Heavy rain killed more than 30 and forced authorities to evacuate tens of thousands as swaths of northern China were lashed by torrential downpours that sparked landslides and flooding. Officials have issued their second-highest rainstorm warning for Beijing, neighbouring Hebei and Tianjin, as well as 10 other provinces. AFP

CARACAS

Opposition calls for resistance on anniversary of Maduro's victory



REUTERS

Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado (in picture) called for "clandestine" resistance against President Nicolas Maduro on the anniversary of his disputed re-election. Officials declared Maduro winner of the July 2024 polls despite allegations of fraud and without releasing a breakdown of voting results. AFP

BOGOTA

Colombia's former President Uribe found guilty of witness tampering

AFP

A Colombian court on Monday found Alvaro Uribe guilty of witness tampering, making him the South American country's first ex-president to be convicted of a crime. The 73-year-old — who led Colombia from 2002 to 2010 — was found guilty of asking right-wing paramilitaries to lie about their alleged links to him. AFP

U.K. to recognise state of Palestine in Sept. unless Israel commits to truce

British PM wants the Israeli government to take serious steps to 'end the appalling situation in Gaza' ahead of the UN General Assembly session; announcement comes a day after Starmer met with U.S. President who blessed the move

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. government has said it would recognise the Palestinian state in September before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session, unless the Israeli government took serious steps to "end the appalling situation in Gaza".

The conditions, which were set out in a statement from Downing Street, included Israel having to commit to a long-term and sustainable peace, including by allowing the UN to immediately begin the supply of humanitarian support to Gaza, Israel agreeing to a ceasefire and "making clear that there would be no annexations in the West Bank".

About time: Protesters create a tableau about the situation in Gaza outside Downing Street in London on Tuesday. AFP

An assessment of the situation would be made before the UNGA, the statement said, with no one side having a veto on recognition via their "actions or inactions".

The news comes a day after U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the latter's Turnberry golf-course in Scotland. "I'm not going to take a position, I don't mind him taking a position," Mr. Trump had said, apparently blessing Mr. Starmer's move towards recognising the state of Palestine.

France will recognise a Palestinian state at the UNGA, French President Emmanuel Macron announced on July 24.

On July 25, 221 British MPs , the majority from Mr. Starmer's Labour Party, wrote to the Prime Minister, asking him to recognise the State of Palestine. "I have always said that we will recognise a Palestinian State as a contribution to a proper peace process at the moment of maximum impact for the two-state solution. With that solution now under threat, this is the moment to act," Mr. Starmer said on Tuesday.

"But recognition by itself will not change the situation on the ground," the U.K. government statement said, as it announced immediate steps along with Jordan to airdrop food into Gaza, evacuating injured children from the area, and pushing for UN deliveries of humanitarian assistance.

"Hamas are a terrorist organisation responsible for the October 7th atrocities. They must never be rewarded," the statement said.

Four killed as man opens fire in New York skyscraper

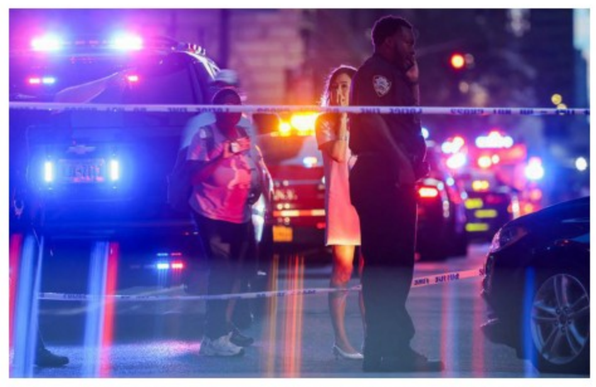
Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

A gunman with mental health issues opened fire in a central Manhattan skyscraper on Monday, killing four persons, including a policeman before apparently taking his own life, officials said.

A fifth victim was in critical condition after being shot, Mayor Eric Adams told a late-night press briefing at a nearby hospital.

The man, identified as Shane Tamura from Las Vegas, claimed in a note to have a brain disease linked to contact sports and was trying to target the National Football League's headquarters but took the wrong elevator, officials said on Tuesday.

The gunman was caught on surveillance footage leaving a black BMW and carrying an M-4 rifle.



Police officials and others gather at a crime scene in mid-town Manhattan in New York City on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

On entering the building, he immediately opened fire on a police officer before "spraying the lobby" with bullets.

The gunman then took an elevator to the 33rd floor of Rudin Management, which owns the building, and continued his spree before apparently shooting himself. He was later discovered by officers next to his weapon.

The incident began around 6:00 p.m. (3:30 a.m. IST) when reports of gunfire prompted hundreds of police to swarm a busy office district on Park Avenue, an area popular with tourists and businesspeople.

Famine chokes Gaza as toll from strikes tops 60,000

Reuters
GENEVA

A worst-case scenario of famine is unfolding in Gaza and immediate action is needed to end fighting and allow unimpeded aid access, a global hunger monitor warned on Tuesday, saying failure to act now would result in widespread death.

Its alert coincided with a statement from Gaza health authorities saying Israel's military campaign had now killed more than 60,000 Palestinians.

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that a trickle of aid into the Gaza Strip must become an ocean. "Food, water, medicine and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction," he said.

Little effect: Humanitarian aid is airdropped to Palestinians over central Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AP

Mounting evidence

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) raised the prospect that the man-made starvation crisis could be formally classified as a famine, in the hope that this might raise the pressure on Israel to let far more food deliveries in. "Mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger-related deaths," the IPC said.

France slams violence by Israeli settlers in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

France on Tuesday condemned the "murder" in the West Bank of a Palestinian activist who contributed to an Oscar-winning documentary, describing Israeli settler violence as "terrorism". Palestinian authorities said Israeli settlers killed Awdah Muhammad Hathaleen, a teacher, on Monday.

"France condemns this murder as well as all deliberate acts of violence committed by extremist settlers against the Palestinian population, which are multiplying across the West Bank," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

At least 27 killed as Russia targets prison, medical facilities in Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight as Russia's strikes on civilian areas killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said on Tuesday, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish Russia with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

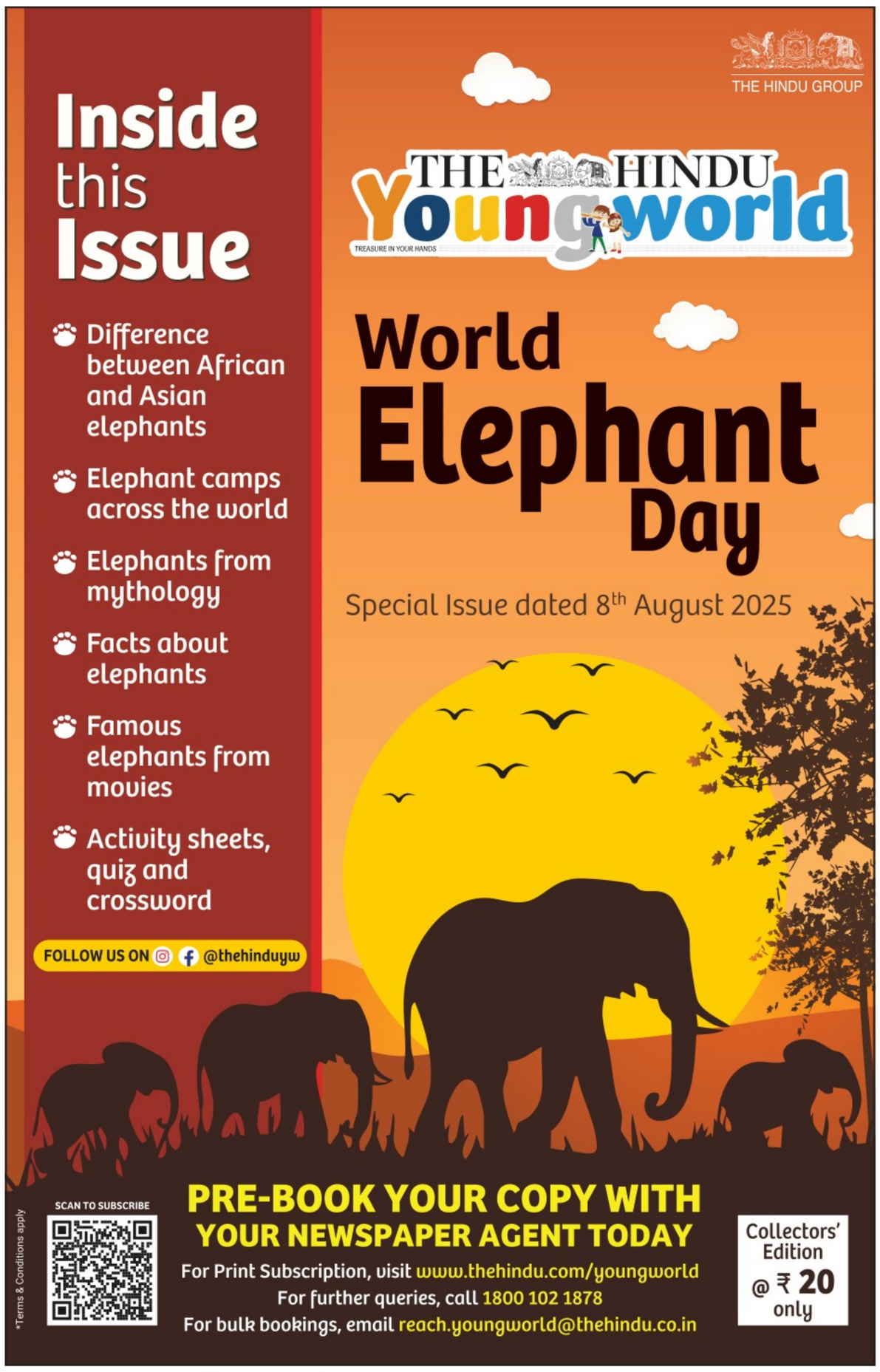
Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 16 inmates and wounded more than 90 others, Ukraine's Justice Ministry said.

Taking stock: The penal colony that came under a Russian air strike in Zaporizhzhia region in Ukraine on Tuesday. REUTERS

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital ward. At least three persons were killed, including a 23-year-old pregnant woman, and two other persons were killed elsewhere in the region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that overnight Russian strikes across the country hit 73 cities, towns and villages.

Mr. Trump said on Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Mr. Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by August 7-9.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that Russia is determined to achieve its goals in Ukraine, though he said Moscow has "taken note" of Mr. Trump's announcement and is committed to seeking a peaceful solution.



WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT

England should rest Archer and play Atkinson in final Test: Broad

REUTERS

Premier England fast bowler Jofra Archer, *in pic*, who returned to the Test team after four years, should be rested for the final game against India to manage his workload ahead of the Ashes, feels Stuart Broad. "I think Gus Atkinson has to play. He hasn't been really challenged against top-level opposition in Test cricket yet".

PROBLEM AREA

Bowling remains a concern for Team India, says Rahane

PTI

Ajinkya Rahane believes that while the Indian batting unit has sung in harmony, the bowling remains a "concern" ahead of the fifth Test against England. "The batting has been fantastic. What concerns the Indian team is the bowling department. A couple of bowlers are performing well, but they are not getting the support," Rahane said.

REHAB

Sable undergoes ACL surgery, to miss World Championships

INSTAGRAM@AVINASH__SABLE

Asian Games gold medallist 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable has undergone ACL surgery after suffering the injury during the Monaco Diamond League and has been ruled out of World Athletics Championships to be held in Tokyo from September 13-21. An ACL surgery normally takes at least six months to heal.

ON SONG

Satwik-Chirag duo returns to top-10 in the BWF rankings

PTI

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty returned to the top-10 in the BWF men's doubles World rankings released on Tuesday, climbing three spots following their semifinal finish at the China Open last week. This was the duo's third semifinal appearance on the BWF Tour this season.

Gambhir and The Oval curator in a heated exchange

The incident happened midway through the visitors' optional training session; batting coach Kotak reveals that the pitch-in-charge 'yelled at the support staff' to not go near the square

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

Tempers flared at The Oval on Tuesday as India head coach Gautam Gambhir got into a heated exchange with the venue's chief curator, Lee Fortis.

The incident happened midway through India's optional training session when Gambhir and the other coaching staff walked up to the centre wicket to have a closer look at the surface.

A few minutes prior, England coach Brendon McCullum and Rob Key, the managing director of the men's team, had examined the pitch.

Surprise

But according to India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, who was with Gambhir during the incident, the curator sternly asked the Indian staff to stay two-and-a-half metres away from the surface, which came as a surprise to them.

Things got ugly a few moments later when the support staff brought the ice box to the ground.

"He [Fortis] yelled at the support staff that we should not go near the square. He said something that irked the head coach," Kotak said.

Fortis, a seasoned curator, could be seen in an argument with the visibly upset Indian coach. As the Indian players and the support staff gathered around Gambhir, he could be heard telling Fortis: "You can't tell us what to do; you are just a groundsman and nothing beyond."

The trigger: Kotak says Gambhir asked curator Fortis not to speak to the support staff harshly, and things spiralled out of control after that. X@SHAYANACHARYA

India has decided not to lodge any official complaint

> You can't tell us what to do; you are just a groundsman and nothing beyond
> GAMBHIR

Kotak had to step in and take Fortis aside.

As the news broke out, members of the Indian contingent and the ECB officials rushed to the scene, and there were rounds of discussions, with Kotak joining them as well.

"As he was yelling, Gautam told him not to speak to the support staff in that manner. It was very normal for him to defend us, but that's when the curator walked up and things got a bit [heated up]," Kotak said.

"Even before coming to The Oval, we all knew that this curator was not the easiest person to deal with."

According to Kotak, the support staff was just assessing the pitch when the curator interfered.

"He sent someone saying that we should stand away 2.5 metres from the pitch, which was surprising.

"We have all played cricket and we know that the curators could get overprotective with the square, but there's nothing wrong in looking at the wicket two days before the game, with our rubber spikes on," Kotak said, adding that the curators also need to understand that they are talking to "highly skilled and intelligent people".

"For example, if you go to the ground now where we practised, you won't even see any spike marks on the surface or the outfield. We ensure that the ground should not get damaged, and it all comes from the head coach. So, you can be protective, but not arrogant.

"Ultimately, it's a cricket pitch and not an antique that is 200 years old and can be broken," Kotak added.

Fortis later told the media that Gambhir was 'a bit tetchy' and refused to go into the details. "You saw what happened," Fortis said.

After the incident, Gambhir returned to oversee the nets session and had discussions with the BCCI chairman of the selection committee, Ajit Agarkar.

India has decided not to lodge any official complaint.

KOTAKSPEAK

Even before coming to The Oval, we all knew that this curator was not the easiest person to deal with

There's nothing wrong in looking at the wicket two days before the game with our rubber spikes on

You can be protective, but not arrogant. Ultimately, it's a cricket pitch and not an antique that is 200 years old and can be broken

India unlikely to field Bumrah; Arshdeep could make his debut

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

The Indian team management is unlikely to field Jasprit Bumrah in the fifth Test following the medical team's advice.

Before the series got underway, it was decided that Bumrah would feature in only three fixtures to manage his workload. He has already played three Tests, and the medical team has informed the think-tank that it would not be advisable to make him play the fifth Test.

Earlier in the day, India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had said: "Bumrah is fit now, and he bowled in one innings in the previous match, so the head coach, physio and the captain will come together and decide. We are yet to make the decision."

After drawing the fourth Test at Old Trafford, head coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed that all the pacers were fit. During an optional training session on Tuesday, Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh bowled in tandem. Both missed out on the previous game due to injuries. There is a possibility of Arshdeep making his debut, replacing Anshul Kamboj. Akash, too, could return if the team decides to rest Mohammed Siraj, who has played in all four Tests.

Fingers crossed: Arshdeep may well replace Kamboj in the playing XI. PTI

During the practice session, Gambhir had a long chat with Kuldeep Yadav, who is yet to get a single game so far.

In the past, The Oval surface has had something in it for the tweakers and the team management could be tempted to play the left-arm wrist-spinner in place of Shardul Thakur. However, Kotak said that a decision will be taken only on the eve of the game.

There are concerns over the No. 3 spot as well. Both Karun Nair and B. Sai Sudharsan have struggled to get going, even though Gambhir was happy with them building partnerships. Kotak said he expects a big innings from the No. 3 batter in the final Test. It could be a tricky call for the management.

Sciver-Brunt had a good series against India. GETTY IMAGES

Sciver-Brunt overtakes Smriti as No. 1 ODI batter

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt displaced India batter Smriti Mandhana from the No. 1 spot in the latest ICC women's ODI batting rankings released here on Tuesday.

Sciver-Brunt, who previously held the top position in 2023, regained the slot on the back of a series-high 160 runs across three ODIs against India recently.

Smriti dropped one spot to second after totalling 115 runs across the three matches against England. Sciver-Brunt has 731 points against Smriti's 728.

Learning curve: Ambidextrous spinner Nivethan will be eager to make the most of the friendly conditions. GETTY IMAGES

Australian squad to visit MRF Academy

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

A 12-man squad chosen by the National Selection Panel (NSP) of Cricket Australia (CA) is scheduled to visit the MRF Academy here from July 31 to August 12.

Exposure trip

The visit is focused on emerging batters, wicket-keepers, and spin bowlers who the NSP feels will benefit from experiencing the conditions of the subcontinent. The squad is slated to have training sessions, and will play a three-day match from August 4 to 6 and a one-day game on August 10.

Leg-spin bowling all-rounder Jason Sangha, who plays for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL), off-spinner Rafael MacMillan and left-handed batter Oliver Peake from the 2024 u-19 World Cup-winning squad, and ambidextrous spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan (off-spin, left-arm spin) are some of the notable names in the squad.

The squad: Joel Curtis, Harry Dixon, Zanden Jeh, Campbell Kellaway, Angus Lovell, Rafael MacMillan, Oliver Peake, Lloyd Pope, Nivethan Radhakrishnan, Jason Sangha, Liam Scott, Lachlan Shaw.

India alongside Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam for Women's Asian Cup

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India was on Tuesday drawn with powerhouse Japan, former champion Taiwan and Vietnam in Group-C of the AFC Women's Asian Cup to be held in Australia next year.

The draw ceremony for the 12-team tournament to be run from March 1 to 21, 2026 was held at the Sydney Town Hall with Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore being one of the three draw assistants.

The 12 teams were divided into three groups of four teams each.

The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on March 4, 2026. India will then face Japan on March 7 at the same venue, before squaring off against Taiwan on March 10 at the Western Sydney Stadium.

All in readiness: India midfielder Sangita, left, took part in the draw ceremony held at the Sydney Town Hall. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarterfinals.

The four semifinalists will book their tickets to the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil, while the losing sides from the quarterfinals will advance to the play offs, where two more spots at the global show-piece will be at stake.

In Group-A, host Australia was drawn alongside Korea Republic, Iran and Philippines. Group-B consists of DPR Korea, China, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

China is the defending champion and it will be seeking a record-extending 10th title.

Satwik-Chirag pair advances in Macau Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
MACAU

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men's doubles second round of the Macau Open Super 300 with a straight-game win over Malaysia's Low Hang Yee and Ng Eng Cheong here on Tuesday. The Asian Games champions, who on Tuesday regained their place in the top 10 of the BWF world rankings, produced a clinical performance to outclass the Malaysian pair 21-1, 21-15 in just 36 minutes.

In another match, A. Hariharan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi went down to Japan's Tori Aizawa and Daisuke Sano 21-15, 19-21, 4-21.

The women's pair of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra also moved to the second round after battling past Taiwan's Zih Ling Huang and Wang Szu-Min 21-15, 16-21, 21-17 in a hard-fought three-game encounter. In another match, Malaysia's Pei Kee Go and Mei Xing Teoh got the better of Apoorva and Sakshi Gahlawat 21-8, 21-11.

However, the top-seeded pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also suffered a first-round exit after going down fighting 21-16, 20-22, 15-21 in an hour against Lin Xiao Min and Peng Yu Wei of Taiwan.

The results:
Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Low Hang Yee & Ng Eng Cheong (Mas) 21-1, 21-15; Tori Aizawa & Daisuke Sano (Jpn) bt A. Hariharan & Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi 15-21, 21-19, 21-4
Women's doubles: Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra bt Zih Ling Huang & Wang Szu-Min (Tpe) 21-15, 16-21, 21-17; Lin Xiao Min & Peng Yu Wei (Tpe) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand (Tpe) 16-21, 22-20, 21-15; Pei Kee Go & Mei Xing Teoh (Mas) bt Apoorva & Sakshi Gahlawat 21-8, 21-11.

INBRIEF

Dwarshuis stars as Australia completes series sweep

Ben Dwarshuis removed the openers and took the crucial wicket of top-scorer Shimron Hetmyer as Australia beat the West Indies on Monday at Basseterre to sweep the T20I series 5-0. Chasing a modest 171, Australia recovered from 25 for three to romp home with three overs to spare.

The scores: West Indies 170 in 19.4 overs (Sherfane Rutherford 35, Shimron Hetmyer 52, Ben Dwarshuis 3/41, Nathan Eellis 2/32) lost to Australia 173/7 in 17 overs (Cameron Green 32, Tim David 30, Mitchell Owen 37, Jason Holder 2/36, Alzarri Joseph 2/21, Akeal Hosein 3/17).
Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Dwarshuis; **PoS:** Green.

Mixed luck for India in Rod Laver junior challenge

Defending champion India lost to host Spain 2-4, after having gone down to Italy by a similar margin earlier, in the IC Rod Laver junior challenge tennis event in Barcelona. India did beat South Africa 5-1, but found itself fourth among the sixth teams. Spain led the table with three wins from as many matches.

The results: Spain bt India 4-2 (Maxi Carrascosa bt Samarth Sahita 7-6, 6-2; Yago Castellanos lost to Araadhya Kshitij 2-6, 2-6; Gabriela Paun bt Saanvi Misra 6-0, 6-1; Celia Anson lost to Rishitha Basireddy 4-6, 6-3, [4-10]; Carrascosa & Castellanos bt Samarth & Araadhya 7-6(4), 6-3; Gabriela & Celia bt Saanvi & Rishitha 6-2, 6-1).
India bt South Africa 5-1 (Samarth Sahita bt Connor Doig 6-2, 6-4; Araadhya Kshitij bt Jayden Summers 6-1, 6-4; Saanvi Misra lost to Morgan Jordaan 0-6, 2-6; Rishitha Basireddy bt Meri Sandembergh 6-1, 6-2; Samarth & Aaradhya bt Conor & Jayden 6-2, 6-4; Maaya Rajeshwaran & Rishitha Basireddy bt Morgan & Meri 5-7, 6-4, [11-9]).

Ageless Ledecky wins 1,500m freestyle for 22nd world gold

Katie Ledecky cruised to a dominant 1,500m freestyle gold in Singapore on Tuesday to claim the 22nd world title of her storied career. The American great touched the wall in 15min 26.44sec, ahead of Simona Quadarella of Italy in 15:31.79 and Australia's Lani Pallister in 15:41.18. The masterful win moved Ledecky four short of Michael Phelps's career tally of 26 world golds.

Disappointing run continues for Indian swimmers

Indian swimmers continued to disappoint at the World Aquatics Championships with none of them making it past the heats for the third straight day in Singapore on Tuesday. In 200m butterfly, Sajan Prakash finished 24th, clocking 1:59.33s. In the men's 800m freestyle, Aryan Nehra was placed 23rd with 8:21.30s. Only the top eight progressed to the final. S.P. Likith finished 50th in men's 50m backstroke in 28.45s.

Coach Pandit parts ways with Kolkata Knight Riders

IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on Tuesday announced the departure of head coach Chandrakant Pandit, ending his two-year stint with the team following a disappointing 2025 season. "Chandrakant Pandit has decided to explore new opportunities and will not continue as head coach of Kolkata Knight Riders," KKR posted on X.

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

We are preparing for Pakistan, says Fulton

Teams coming for the Asian Cup is not in our control but not being prepared cannot be an excuse, insists the India coach ahead of the forthcoming tour of Australia

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
BENGALURU

Back to full-strength training after the disappointing Pro League tour of Europe, the Indian men's hockey team is putting in the hard yards to ensure better results in the upcoming Australia tour, with one eye on the Asia Cup back home later next month.

The players have been training here for the last fortnight and, although the squad for Australia has been decided, the trials for the Asia Cup are scheduled for Friday as coach Craig Fulton zeroes in on his final 18 for the World Cup qualifying event in Rajgir.

"It's going good, and it's nice to have the India-A group back as well and good competition, we are excited about the Asia Cup, that's the main priority for the year.

"We specifically chose Australia to tour for that reason (tougher opponents than the teams in Asia Cup) because we want to make sure we have covered all bases. To play a top team like Australia, from a physical and a tactical point of view, it will highlight quite quickly if we are on track or not.

Well-planned: Fulton believes the upcoming tour of Australia will help identify where the Indian team stands. GETTY IMAGES

"It's not always easy, we had a tough time when we went there the last time but 3-4 months later, we beat Australia for the first time (in the Olympics). That's the ideal scenario, to play someone better than you and then close the gap between where you started and where you finished," Fulton said after training on Tuesday.

The India-A side also had mixed results on its Europe tour recently, but Fulton insisted it was part of a long-term process. "With the India-A, it's all development, they are not there to win games against Holland and Belgium and England.

"At the same time, we are looking at developing the next group of talented athletes. But they need good games, and they need to be tested, and I think we really got a good balance of seeing that.

"We just want to create more depth because what happens now with the Under-21s? They finish the World Cup, they can't come straight into the senior group, where do they go? This squad is for that, and then it's always really competitive so that whatever comes in is better than what's currently going out and that's how we are trying to manage that programme," he said.

As for the Asia Cup, he isn't thinking about the line-up just yet.

"I assume it's going to be Pakistan because if it's anyone lesser, I can't do anything about it. I'm preparing for Pakistan and that's how we're approaching it. The worst thing to do is not prepare and if they arrive, then use the excuse, 'Oh we didn't think they were coming.'"

Chandrasekar spins himself into the record books with a 10-for innings haul

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

D.T. Chandrasekar bowled himself into the record books when he scalped a perfect ten for Sea Hawks against Globe Trotters on day two of their TNCA first division league clash on Tuesday.

The left-arm spinner's ten for 37 in a single unbroken spell of 15 overs ensured Trotters were bundled for just 91 in the second innings and helped his side clinch a thumping 10-wicket win.

Previously, former India off-spinner M. Venkataramana took 10 for 96 for Indian Bank against Southern Railways in the 1991-92 first division season.

"I am very happy. It is rare to take 10 wickets in any level of cricket, so it feels special. When I got six or seven wickets, I realised I had a chance to get all ten," said Chandrasekar.

Hailing from a humble background and having even worked as a marker, Chandrasekar made his First-Class debut in the 2015-16 season, taking 18 wickets in five games.

However, in a State blessed with rich spin talent, he did not get a chance after that. The 32-year-old, though, hasn't let that give up his love for the sport.

D.T. Chandrasekar.

When I got six or seven wickets, I realised I had a chance to get all ten

"In the last few years, I have improved my skills. I worked with R. Ramkumar when I was with Jolly Rovers, and focused on things like overspin and how to use the crease and angles. I am also grateful to the management at Freyer International and Tamil Kumaran, who have helped me.

"Though I haven't been able to make a comeback, I have not lost hope and will continue to do my job, which is to pick wickets," says Chandrasekar.

Niki emerges biggest buy at Maharani auction

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Batter Niki Prasad emerged as the most expensive player, fetching ₹3.70 lakh, in the inaugural Maharani Trophy KSCA T20 auction held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Tuesday.

Niki was signed by Bengaluru Blasters.

Shubha Satheesh (Mysore Warriors, ₹3.10 lakh) and Mithila Vinod (Shivamogga Lioness, ₹3.00 lakh) were the other big signings.

The five-team women's cricket tournament will begin here on August 4.

Shillong Lajong and Jamshedpur FC notch up second wins in a row

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Shillong Lajong FC notched up a second successive win as it downed Rangdajied United FC 3-1 in a Group-E league match of the 134th Durand Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Tuesday.

The traditional rivals fought hard for the lead, which came Lajong's way in the added time of the opening half as Everbrightson Sana found the mark.

But Mebanshngain equalised for Rangdajied in the 58th minute.

Keen tussle: Indian Army's Samir Murmu thwarts an attempt by Jamshedpur's Nishu Kumar. PTI

Lajong shifted gears and scored through Damait Lyngdoh (66th) and Gladdy Kharbuli (80th) to secure the win.

Lajong also went to the top of the standings with six points.

Sanan Mohammed produced the only goal of the match early in the second half to help Jamshedpur FC secure a win over Indian Army Football Team in a Group-C match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

This was the second successive win for JFC, which now tops the group with six points.

The results:

At Shillong: Group-E: Shillong Lajong FC 3 (Everbrightson Sana 45+1, Damait Lyngdoh 66, Gladdy Kharbuli 80) bt Rangdajied United FC 1(Mebanshngain 58).

At Jamshedpur:

Group-C: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Sanan Mohammed 52) bt Indian Army FT 0.

CITY ROUND-UP

Syed Arfulla edges the title on better back nine score

Syed Arfulla edged out Keshava Murthy in the 0-9 handicap category of the 74th KGA-Epson golf tournament at the KGA course.

Arfulla and Murthy finished tied on 37 Stableford points, but the former was adjudged the winner because of his better back nine score.

Other winners: 10-19 handicap: A.M. Kutappa (40 points); **20-32 handicap:** Syed Azmathulla (38).

Onat slams 203, Harshil makes 113

Vishal Onat (203) and Harshil (113) starred for Bangalore Zone against Dharwad Zone in their drawn encounter in the KSCA S.A. Srinivasan Memorial under-23 cricket tournament.

The scores: Dharwad Zone 357 in 88 overs (Rohan Yareshmi 39, Shatak Gunjal 40, Rajendra Danganavar 106, Saurav Samant 57 n.o., Sathwik Sairaj 3/62, M. Malatesh 3/100) drew with Bangalore Zone 463 in 89.4 overs (Vishal Onat 203, Harshil 113, Faizan Khan 62, Rajvir Wadhwa 40, Punit Basava 3/81, Rajendra Danganavar 4/100).

President's XI 408/4 in 90 overs (Appachu Manavatira 61, Pranav Babu 88, Dheeraj Gowda 32, Sanjay Ashwin 122 n.o., Arun Bharadwaj 95 n.o.) and 28 for no loss in 10 overs drew with Tumkur Zone 86 in 49.5 overs (Shubham Kumar 33 n.o., Dheeraj Gowda 5/22).

Mysore Zone 189 in 51 overs (Likith Gowda 52, Abhay Rangan 53, S. Santhosh 5/39) and 180/2 in 39 overs (S.U. Karthik 80, Yashwanth Patel 54 n.o.) drew with Shivamogga Zone 173 in 63.2 overs (S.M. Sarfaraz 28, Mithesh 71, Manvanth Kumar 4/31, S. Ishaan 3/27).

Bangalore City XI 218 in 57.1 overs (R. Suhas 44, N.A. Chinmay 31, Anirudh Srinivas 65, Nischith Pai 3/36, Nathan D'Mello 3/54) and 268/3 in 48 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 200) drew with Mangalore Zone 176 in 51.3 overs (R.R. Rohan 45, Ismail Mohtesham 35, Goutham Mishra 3/39, Shikhar Shetty 5/20).

India needs Kuldeep as two sets of tired bowlers prepare for the final Test

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Ben Stokes might not agree, but there is something poetic about a draw in cricket. Not the damp squib kind, washed out by monsoon or apathy, but the edge-of-the-seat kind, where time runs out – time, that most important element in a five-day game. Where Kipling's 'If-' is evoked in the dressing room. If only those catches had been held. If only we hadn't batted for so long.

A draw is a reminder of the uniqueness of Test cricket. You don't have to win to be heroic. Sometimes survival, especially when there is apparently no chance, is a triumph. We need reminding that it isn't all about winning and losing. Binaries simplify; Test cricket, like life, is richer and subtler than that.

A five-Test series reflects the trials and possibilities of a single Test match. There are choices at every step. Do you play the ball or leave it alone? Over or round the wicket? Players have to keep fit, selectors have to pick the right combination. A poor session can lead to defeat; a couple, and a series might be lost. The big picture – whether in a single innings, single Test or full series – must dictate.

Defensive mindset

For a team that was trailing coming into Old Trafford, India went in with a defensive mindset. They had to do all the running, they had to take risks. Yet, from the start, from team selection, to batting in the first innings, the accent was on defence. On waiting for things to happen. Stroke players curbed their stroke play. Someone had to take a chance, no one did.

It is unfair to ask a young fast bowler to make his debut within hours of landing in England. Anshul Kamboj looked out of sorts in a team where the incumbents haven't been having it so good. Kuldeep Yadav ought to play at the Oval. He is a skilled wrist spinner who asks uncomfortable questions even on batting tracks, which England prefer since they love to chase in the fourth innings.

With a 2-1 lead in the series, England would be happy with either of two results, a win or (whisper it, out of Stokes' hearing) a draw. India have to win to level. That would be a fair result in what has unfolded as a series for the ages.

India have to be bold, make changes in personnel, some forced (like the replacement for the injured Rishabh Pant) and some necessary (Kuldeep) to claim 20 wickets. Batting slots three and five are unsettled even if Sai Sudharsan has made a half century. Jasprit Bumrah might be forced to play. He looked troubled at Old Trafford, straying middle-and-leg and gifting runs, but he is a great bowler and knows his game.

Fatigue over the intensity of the competition (and the exceptionally hot weather in England) has seen the fast bowlers from either side wilt. The final Test will be a clash between two sets of tired bowlers.

Brutal series

This has been a brutal series, physically and mentally. The teams have striven not just to outplay the other but to out-pressurise them as well. The perfect cover drive is, in the modern game, as effective as the perfect verbal taunt. Things have got out of hand occasionally. The England captain and his temporary lead bowler Harry Brook didn't cover themselves with glory as the recent Test ended. Ruthlessness in competition can be an admirable trait, but churlishness never is.

Years from now no one will remember how the last few runs were made, but the centuries by Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar will remain part of sporting folklore.

In his newspaper column, Geoff Boycott said, "These India players are tough cookies. They do not take a backward step." You can't argue with that.

His huge bag of runs might have obscured some of Gill's captaincy oversights. But a streak of toughness has begun to manifest itself. He is not a demonstrative captain, it's difficult to read his face for clues to his mind. India chose their captain wisely; now they need to choose the team for the final Test just as wisely.

They have to take charge at the Oval. And keep Stokes from rediscovering the poetry in a draw.